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WEDNESDAY APRIL 4, 2018

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OAG wants to add 1 more charge vs cop

REPORTER

>> DUI officer was involved in car accident

he Office of the Attorney General wants to add one more traffic charge against a police officer who crashed his car while allegedly intoxicated, resulting in serious injuries sustained scene of an accident. by his girlfriend.

Assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr., counsel for the government, has requested the Superior Court to amend the information filed against Dixon Kwon to add one count of fleeing the

OAG filed the first amended information last Dec. 5, charging Kwon with six traffic charges—driving while under the influence of alcohol with a Blood Alcohol Concentration of .08 or more; driving while under the influence of alcohol; reckless

See OAG on Page 4

Son treks PNG in footsteps of US war hero dad

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Jon O'Neill flew 23 hours from Florida to the mountainous jungles of Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific in search of clues to the life of his war hero father, whom he can barely remember.

At times, it has been a painful journey of discovery among the rusted relics entangled in undergrowth of a conflict that ended 75 years ago for his father, U.S. Army Air Forces 9th Fighter Squadron of the 49th Fighter Group ace John G. "Jump" O'Neill.

But it has also been an experience planned over a decade that has rewarded the 57-year-old editor and recreational pilot from De Land, Florida, beyond his expectations.

See SON on Page 4



In this March 2017, photo provided by Justin Taylan, Jon O'Neill, right, speaks to World War II historian Justin Taylan at O'Neill's home in De Land, Fla.



NMC, DFEMS COLLABORATION

Cadets of the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Service's 12th Fire Cycle Academy pose for a photo in front of the Capitol Hill Fire Station/Training Center. For the second year in a row, the academy involved collaboration between Northern Marianas College and DFEMS. As part of the collaboration, the graduating cadets will be receiving their Certificates of Completion of in Fire Science Technology from NMC, which includes 38 college credits that can be used toward their college degree.

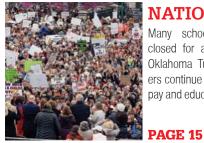
Islam seeks continued release pending outcome of appeal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Mohammed Rafiqul Islam, one of three defendants convicted by a federal jury for their participation in a scheme of bringing Bangladeshi men to Saipan on promises of jobs and green cards in exchange for cash, is

See ISLAM on Page 4



Many schools will remain closed for a second day in Oklahoma Tuesday as teachers continue to rally for higher pay and education funding.

J))) GOT A NEWS TIP?



FOCUS

Seven Filipino Roman Catholic devotees, including a woman, were nailed to wooden crosses in a Good Friday reenactment of Jesus Christ's suffering.

PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE

Kathy Griffin says she hopes to make her U.S. comeback by laughing about the disturbing photograph that got her in hot



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The participants of the Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation signing ceremony yesterday pose for a photo at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi- Purpose Center.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness, Child Neglect Prevention Month

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog yesterday signed proclamations that designated April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse and Neglect Month.

Sexual assault and child abuse is a serious issue internationally and is quite common in the CNMI.

The two proclamations were signed at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Community members, cabinet members, and individuals from both private and government sectors witnessed the signing ceremony.

According to Maisie Tenorio, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence executive director, both the coalition and the Division of Youth Services aim to eliminate child abuse, neglect, and sexual assault in the CNMI.

"We've come a long way and over the years, our messages may have changed, but our mission is the same; to end child abuse, child neglect, and sexual assault," she said.

During the proclamation, Neda Deleon Guerrero gave a heartfelt speech about why, and how she became an advocate against sexual assault.

Deleon Guerrero was a victim of sexual assault and, for the first time, was able to share her story with a crowd of people. Her story moved the entire room to tears but she was proud because according to her, opening up about what

she endured brings her a step closer to full recovery, and inspires others to speak up.

"When we find the courage to speak out, it welcomes and inspires others to embrace their own words as well," she said.

Cheyanne Manuel, from Saipan Southern High School, also inspired courage in individuals present for the proclamation signing through a monologue she prepared that spoke up against teen dating violence.

Throughout the month of April, the community can support the cause by joining the events the coalition and DYS has put together.

On April 4, 10, 17, and 24 the community can tune in to KKMP 92.1 FM live morning show to join the talks about embracing ones voice, the criminal justice system, sexual assault in the work place, and faith

This Friday, April 6, the community can partake in the DYS roadside waving starting at 4pm at the Atkins Kroll intersection.

On Sunday, April 8, the San Roque Parish will host a day of prayer in support of the cause at 9am.

On April 11 and 25 the community can join the Walk and Roll against sexual violence at the Chalan Kanoa basketball court and at the Tanapag Youth Center starting at 5pm.

The highlight of the month will be the S.A.F.E Jamboree on April 21 from 11am to 4pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Manila names as defendants 2 former DOC commissioners

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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Reynaldo A. Manila, an inmate who claimed that he may be losing his vision due to the negligence of the Department of Corrections, has filed an amended complaint in federal court naming as defendants two former DOC commissioners and a former acting DOC commissioner.

In his handwritten amended complaint he filed without a lawyer last Monday, Manila named as defendants former DOC commissioners Robert Guerrero and Georgia M. Cabrera, and former acting DOC commissioner Jose K. Pangelinan.

Manila filed the amended complaint following U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V.

found his complaint not frivolous.

In that order, Manglona said Manila's complaint fails to identify by name the persons or entities against whom he is complaining. The judge instructed Manila to amend his complaint by naming a defendant or defendants.

Manila has sought help from the District Court after

Manglona's recent order that his eye surgery at the Commonwealth Health Center last September was allegedly ments, Manila wrote Manunsuccessful and that he is worried he is losing his vi- his eye problem and begging said >>> Ex-DOC acting

Manila the actions and inactions of DOC have re-

sulted in his suffering from the unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain.

He said DOC officials' willful indifference to his medical issues has caused his prolonged physical pain.

Manila said his pain/suffering is exacerbated by mental anguish of knowing that he may go blind on his left eye, a life-long handicap or permanent loss.

He said the defendants denied and delayed his medical treatment

Manila said a medical officer told him that according to then-DOC commissioner Cabrera his medical condition was not "life-

threatening."

commissioner

also named

According to court docuglona last Dec. 6 explaining

for assistance as he cannot afford to pay a lawyer to represent him.

In 2015, the CNMI Board of Parole voted to commute the 60-year prison sentence slapped on Manila, who was convicted in 2002 for the death of his six-month-old goddaughter.

Manila, now, 56 years old, has been serving 17 years of the 60-year prison term.

In 2016, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres decided against commutation at the advice of the

Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety.

Then-Superior Court associate judge Virginia Sablan-Onerheim sentenced Manila in June 2002 to 60 years in prison for second-degree murder over the death of the baby.

The baby lingered in the hospital for several days before dying on Nov. 6, 2000.

A jury found Manila guilty of second-degree murder and child abuse.

Manila has insisted that he did not kill the child.

Then-chief prosecutor Clyde Lemons noted that a doctor testified that the baby was shaken "very hard," consistent with shaken baby syndrome.

Yamamoto, parties in suit over M/V Luta still negotiating

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Investor Takahisa Yamamoto and the parties in his lawsuit against the controversial cargo ship M/V Luta and its owners are still negotiating to settle their dispute.

Yamamoto, through his counsel George Lloyd Hasselback, and M/V Luta and its owner Luta Mermaid LLC, through their counsel William M. Fitzgerald, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday about their ongoing settlement talks.

Luta Mermaid LLC's members are Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III.

Hasselback and Fitzgerald said because of their settlement negotiation continues they have agreed to extend the hearing date in the case.

The hearing is supposed to be this Thursday, but the parties have agreed to continue it to April 26 at 9:30am.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Luta Mermaid, and the Mendiolas for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel. The vessel was seized shortly after the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship on Oct. 25, 2016. National Maritime Services was then ap-

pointed as substitute custodian of the vessel.

On Feb. 22, 2017, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter ordered the immediate release of Luta to its owner, Luta Mermaid LLC, after Yamamoto reached the settlement agreement with the ship's former custodian, NMS.

NMS sued Yamamoto for failing to pay custodian fees.

Following the settlement, Carter discharged the court's previous order to show cause against Yamamoto and relieved NMS of its duties as substitute custodian for M/V Luta.

Carter found the settlement deal acceptable.



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SNILD confirms 2 to Zoning Board

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation confirmed two reappointments to the Commonwealth Zoning Board, one of which is currently serving as the chair.

Juan Diego Blanco and Joe Ayuyu Jr. were confirmed during a delegation session last week as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Feb. 26 and 28 reappointed the two to the zoning board.

his fifth term for the board, while Ayuyu is serving his second term.

Blanco is also the chairman of the Zoning board.

According to delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), the delegation Judiciary and Governmental Operations committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) was in conflict as Diego Blanco was his father. Because of this conflict,

ity over the committee.

"The [delegation JGO committee] conducted a public hearing and questions...were allowed [to be made]. There was overwhelming support for the [reappointment] of both appointees," Sablan said.

He added that according to the committee report on the JGO led by Demapan, they did not see any reason to deny the appointment.

"...The delegation went ahead and approved the work of the JGO commit-

delegation JGO vice chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Blanco would be serving Saipan) was given the authortee," said Sablan.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

REPORTER

A former shift manager at the Best Sunshine live casino has agreed to dismiss her discrimination lawsuit in federal court against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd.

Rovie Anne Chopitea, through counsel Daniel T. Guidotti, and Imperial Pacific, through counsel Kelley M. Butcher, filed yesterday a stipulation to dismiss the case with prejudice.

Dismiss with prejudice means Chopitea can no longer re-file the lawsuit.

Guidotti and Butcher did not indicate the reason/s in their stipulation as to why they want to dismiss the case.

Asked by Saipan Tribune yesterday if the parties have settled, Guidotti said he has no comment.

As of press time, Saipan Tribune was still waiting comments from Butcher.

The parties held a settlement conference before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L Kennedy last Thursday.

Chopitea filed the lawsuit last October against Imperial Pacific for discrimination under Title VII, retaliation, and violation of Equal Pay Act.

Chopitea asked the court to hold Imperial Pacific International liable for her back pay with prejudgment interest, compensation, damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Imperial Pacific has denied the allegations.



Torres is off-island

Veterans Resource Fair opens today

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is off-island for official business representing the CNMI in a regional development finance institution with a member of the Legislature.

Torres, a member of the Pacific Islands Development Bank's board of governors, is attending the bank's annual

Delegate Gregorio Kilili

Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP)

invites all veterans, service

members, military families,

and members of the public to

the 2018 Northern Marianas

Veterans Resource Fair, which

starts on Rota today, April 4,

9:30am-12:30pm at the May-

Saipan tomorrow, April 5,

5:30pm-8:30pm at the Pedro

P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Cen-

ter, and ends on Tinian on Fri-

day, April 6, 2:30pm-5:30pm

"The Northern Marianas

The fair continues on

or's Conference Hall.

at the Tinian Library.

meeting with the CNMI legislative representative Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) at Pohnpei.

The board of governors, who meet annually in spring to review bank operations and major policy decisions, are responsible for overseeing PIDB bank activities and administration.

According to CNMI press secretary Kevin Bautista, Tor-

Veterans Resource Fair will

provide our veterans, service members, and their families

the opportunity to learn more

about the services and ben-

efits they have earned and to

connect with the federal and

commonwealth agencies and

community groups that are

here in the Marianas to sup-

Constituents will be able

to meet with representatives

from more than 40 organi-

zations to gain information

about veterans' health care

and benefits, education and

career training, home loans,

port them," said Sablan.

res left in the weekend and would be back on Thursday.

The PIDB was created in 1989 by the Association of Pacific Islands Legislature, or APIL. Members of APIL include Guam, the CNMI. Republic of Palau, and the FSM States of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

PIDB has a mission to "... contribute to the economic and social development of its members," according to its website. According to Bautista, the bank also seeks "social development of the member states and nations, individually and collectively, and to promote economic cooperation among them."

The board of governors, who represent the owners or shareholders of the bank, shoulders all governance of the PIDB. Each member appoints two representatives called governors, and represents both the executive branch and the legislative branch of each country involved.

of the House Veterans Affairs

with raising awareness about

Additionally, the congressional office is collaborating with the Guam Vet Center to conduct a needs assessment that will be helpful for developing the Northern Marianas' very own Vet Center, another top goal for Sablan. Surveys will be distributed at the resource fairs on Rota, Tinian,

For more information, con-

employment assistance, small business development training, vocational rehabilitation, legal aid, disability assistance, crisis support, counsel-

ing, family support programs,

and social services. Veterans and family members who wish to meet with Department of Veterans Affairs representatives to follow up on their claims are asked to bring relevant supporting documents (i.e., copies of DD214 forms, medical records, marriage or birth certificates for

"Improving access to services in the Marianas is one of my top priorities as a member

dependents, etc.).

Committee," Sablan said.

"And better access begins the services that are available."

and Saipan.

tact the congressional office at (670) 323-2647 or email kilili@mail.house.gov. (PR)

SON

From Page 1

"I go ... back home with more memories than I ever thought I would be able to take with me. It's been amazing," the son told The Associated Press from Rabaul, the former Japanese stronghold on the Papua New Guinea island of New Britain, over which the father had four of his eight Japanese kills in a P-38 Lighting fighter.

The image of the father had been etched in the son's mind more by family stories than by memory. John O'Neill died of leukemia in Florida when his only son was 6 and his daughter Tracey was a year younger.

With the guidance of World War II historian Justin Taylan, founder of the charity website PacificWrecks.com, which

documents and preserves war sites and graves, the son has retraced his father's 1943 wartime steps, from Papua New Guinea's capital, Port Moresby, to the wilds of the country's north and east coasts.

Japan took Rabaul in 1942 and held it until the war ended in 1945. But Rabaul had been rendered useless as a base for Japanese fighting in the South Pacific by relentless air attacks and isolation

from supply lines.

The son's two weeks in Papua New Guinea, Australia's nearest neighbor, ends on Wednesday.

On March 28—his late father's 97th birthday—Jon O'Neill was at Oro Bay, a former U.S. military staging post on the northeast coast, where his father shot down a Mitsubishi Zero, his second Japanese kill, on the day he turned 22.

ISLAM

From Page 1

asking the federal court for his continued release pending the outcome of his appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Islam, through his courtappointed counsel Bruce Berline, said there is no likelihood that he will flee the jurisdiction of the U.S. District Court for the NMI pending the resolution of his appeal.

Islam said he surrendered his passport to the U.S. Probation Office, he does not have the financial means to flee, and there is no evidence that possesses sophisticated means to obtain a new travel document or otherwise flee the jurisdiction.

Last Oct. 18, the federal jury returned a guilty verdict against Islam of one count of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

Last March 9, he was sentenced to 18 months of imprisonment, with supervised release and other conditions.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge John Coughenour allowed Islam to remain at liberty on the same terms and conditions of his pretrial release until such time as he is given notice by the U.S. Marshal Service to report.

Islam recently filed with the District Court a notice of appeal of his conviction to the Ninth Circuit.

In Islam's motion for release pending appeal, Berline said his client was not connor of a crime that could be characterized as one which posed or poses a danger to the community.

Berline said Islam's appeal was not filed for purposes of delay as his appeal raises substantial questions of law likely to result in reversal of his conviction or an order for a new trial.

Berline said Islam challenges on appeal his conviction on several grounds.

First, the lawyer said, erroneous rulings during trial require remand for a new trial.

At trial, he said, the judge allowed the U.S. government to introduce dozens of pages of Bangladeshi bank documents without a determination that such documents were authentic and relevant.

Berline said the judge later erroneously limited questioning of Pamela Brown, who represents the alleged victims in this case with regard to their application for T-visas as victims of trafficking.

Second, Berline said, Islam submits that there was insufficient evidence by the jury victed of a crime of violence to find the defendant committed the offenses of mail fraud and fraud in foreign labor contracting.

> Here, the lawyer pointed out, the evidence shows that Islam was merely one of several individuals that United Brothers Inc. hired and petitioned for a CW-1 visa to work as a welder or related tradesman at TBK Auto Care, an auto shop on Saipan.

> Berline said Islam has many years of welding experience and his welding certificate was introduced as an

exhibit at trial.

Berline said the U.S. government also interfered in Islam's attorney-client relationship.

The lawyer also asserted that prosecutorial misconduct in closing tainted jury's verdict and requires a new trial.

Islam's co-defendants-David Trung Quoc Phan and Muksedur Rahman—were also convicted. Phan was sentenced to eight months in prison, while Rahman was slapped with a 48-month prison term. Phan also appealed to the Ninth Circuit.

After the prosecution rested its case during the trial, Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez, and Rahman's wife, Shahinur Akter, were acquitted. Defendant Zeaur Rahman Dalu pleaded guilty, but he has yet to be sentenced.

According to the U.S. government, each of the victims paid over \$10,000, but when they arrived on Saipan in April of 2016, they were not given work as promised.

The government named five victims, all Bangladeshis, in

FAC remains the same for April

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced that the Fuel Adjustment Charge remains at \$0.20109 per kWh for the month of April.

Although there has been a slight decrease in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from February to April as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the decrease did not equal or exceed a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel. Accordingly, there will be no adjustment made to the overall CUC kWh rate for the month of April.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when MOPS monthly pricing equals

or exceeds a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC Electric kWh Rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC Base Rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This Base Rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC first instituted LEAC in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the rate. (PR)

OAG

From Page 1

driving; fleeing the scene of an accident; failure to have motor vehicle liability insurance while operating a vehicle on a public highway; and failure to have motor vehicle insurance in possession while operating a vehicle on a public highway.

Kwon, through counsel Charity Hodson, has opposed OAG's request.

Hodson said the court should deny OAG's request at this time because it has failed to provide the information needed not only for Kwon to properly respond to the motion, but also because the court lacks the information required by such a motion to even consider it.

"Even if the Commonwealth provides the required information before the hearing date of this motion, Mr. Kwon will have lost his opportunity to timely and effectively respond," Hodson said.

In the government's request, Glass said the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure permits an information to be amended at any time before verdict or finding if no additional or different offense is charged and if substantial rights of the defendant are not prejudiced.

In this case, Glass said, the Commonwealth asserts that amendment of the information does not include a new offense, but merely clarifies the two different ways in which the illegal conduct is alleged to have occurred.

In addition, Glass said, the proposed amendment does not necessitate additional discovery.

He said discovery has been tendered to Kwon and no trial date is yet set.

Thus, the prosecutor said, the Commonwealth contends that this amendment will neither unduly prejudice Kwon nor compromise these proceedings.

According to Glass, on July 22, 2017 on Saipan, Kwon, while under the influence of alcohol, drove his vehicle into a tree causing injury to Deedra Santos.

Kwon allegedly failed to stop at the scene of the accident.

Glass said Kwon failed to provide reasonable medical assistance to the injured Santos.

Last Sept. 17, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan dismissed without prejudice the case against Kwon as no original traffic citation was filed with the court.

Dismiss without prejudice means the government may re-file the case in the future.

The traffic citation was issued against Kwon last July 23.

Then-Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong stated that Kwon was driving his Nissan car when the vehicle ran off the road on As Gonno Highway and hit a tree near the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

When officers arrived, Tarkong said, Kwon was not at the scene, but the injured female passenger, Santos, was there.

Kwon was later found walking near the area, apparently to get help.

Last November, DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero disclosed that Kwon is back on regular duty as he's already gone through the administrative process.

The following month, Dec. 15, OAG re-filed the case against Kwon.

As of press time, Saipan *Tribune* was still waiting for a statement from DPS whether Kwon is back on duty or not considering the re-filing of charges. Kwon was an off-duty DUI officer for DPS at the time of the accident.



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STOCK # H6302223 FWD, V6 3.3 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd 0D Sportmatic, Mileage: 18,548

\$26,995

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AWD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Automatic, CVT, Mileage: 2,998

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Inmate ordered to name officers, entities he intends to sue

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE REPORTER

The federal court issued an order last Friday instructing inmate Jesse James Babauta Camacho to amend his complaint by naming the government entities and or government officers that he is suing.

Camacho has claimed that he is now a disabled person after he underwent heart surgery last November and blamed a Department of Corrections official and a DOC officer for almedical treatment.

Camacho sought help for a hearing of his complaint from the U.S. District Court for the NMI through a handwritten letter dated Feb. 9, 2018. He said he can't pay a lawyer to represent him in his complaint.

In her order, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said upon screening Camacho's complaint, the court finds a cognizable and non-frivolous claim for a violation of the

legedly causing the delay of his Eight Amendment's guarantee of medical care without deliberate indifference by officials to serious medical needs.

> Manglona said Camacho's complaint is deficient, however, because he never indicated which officials or entities he intends to name as defendants.

> Manglona said although Camacho mentions various individuals by name, the court will not presume that those are the individuals he would like to hold liable.

Manglona said a prisoner may bring a Section 1983 (civil rights) action against a state or local government entity (such as the Department of Corrections) and/ or against individual government agents—the people who, he believes, deliberately deprived him of medical care for a serious condition.

The judge said until Camacho names his defendants the case cannot proceed.

Manglona said the proper course is for the court to give Camacho the opportunity to do so, rather than dismiss the complaint.

Camacho was ordered to submit a written statement of the names of an individual government officers and/or government entities that he is suing.

Manglona said if Camacho sees appointment of counsel and/or to proceed without paying the filing fees, he must file a request to do so.

If Camacho needs assistance with filing these statements, he may contact the District Court's clerk's office, the judge said.

Manglona said these state-

Deleon Guerrero's motion is

granted as to the wrongful ter-

mination and breach of contract

claims, and they are remanded

the BOE and its members in

federal court for terminating

her as the PSS commissioner

last October. She is also suing

the board members in their in-

dividual capacities. She is de-

manding \$350,000 in damages.

rero, her termination was done

in retaliation for her question-

ing BOE's micromanagement

of PSS and her refusal of a re-

According to Deleon Guer-

Deleon Guerrero is suing

to the Superior Court.

ments must be sent to the court by placing it in the prisoner mail at the Department of Corrections within 14 days from last Friday.

The judge said failure to do so will result in dismissal of this case.

Manglona said if Camacho files all of the required statements, the court will review them and, if they are sufficient, will order the U.S. Marshals to serve the amended complaint on the named defendant or defendants.

In his complaint, Camacho said these DOC official and the officer should learn to be responsible for their actions because it's been a practice at DOC that they always deny and delay the inmates/detainees serious medical needs.

Camacho said as his pain was getting worse he called the main control officer at DOC.

Camacho was the mastermind in the killing of a 13-year-old boy in Dandan in April 1988. He was sentenced in 1999 to 45 years in prison. The boy was stabbed numerous times in his own home as part of initiation rites for membership in the so-called Red Rum gang.

Camacho's co-defendants, both minors at the time, entered a plea deal with the government and were sentenced to two years each.

Judge remands to Superior Court 2 of 4 claims in ex-PSS chief's suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has remanded to the Superior Court two of the four claims in the lawsuit filed by former Public School System commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero against the Board of Education and its members over her termination.

In her order issued last Friday, Manglona granted Deleon Guerrero's motion to remand to the Superior Court her claims for wrongful termination and breach of contract.

Manglona, however, denied Deleon Guerrero's request for

Northern Marianas College

is reminding car enthusiasts

who want to participate in

the Charter Day Car Show to

attorney's fees and costs.

Manglona said the complaint's first two causes of action—violation of her due process rights and conspiracy to violate her due process rights will be the sole claims subject to defendants BOE's and its members' motion to dismiss, which is currently set for a hearing on April 26 at 1:30pm.

Deleon Guerrero asked the federal court to remand the federal due process and conspiracy to violate due process claims as well as the state law claims, contending that all of the claims arise out of her employment contract and therefore fall within the choice-offorum clause.

Car Show at NMC Charter Day

register for the event. The car

show will be part of the NMC

Charter Day celebration on

Friday, April 13, 2018.

In her order, Manglona said even though the property interest at issue is a contract, the federal claims are not actions "brought for enforcement of" the contract, but rather are for enforcement of Deleon Guerrero's civil rights.

Manglona said the federal claims are therefore not governed by the choice-offorum clause.

The parties do not dispute that the civil rights claims are federal questions.

Accordingly, Manglona said, the federal claims were properly removed from the Superior Court, and Deleon Guerrero's motion to remand them is denied.

The NMC Charter Day

planning committee is invit-

ing car owners in the follow-

ing categories: 2 Door, 4 door,

As to the state claims, Manglona said absent exceptional circumstances, a valid choice-of-forum clause is controlling as to where a claim may be filed.

The judge said the parties do not dispute the validity of the clause and do not point to exceptional circumstances that would justify this court disregarding it.

Further, Manglona said she finds that the interests of the Commonwealth in adjudicating and enforcing its government agency contracts governed by Commonwealth law outweigh the interests of this court in deciding the case.

Accordingly, Manglona said,

quest for an unlawful transfer of \$175,000 of PSS funds to the board's account.

To register, visit www.mari-

4x4, trucks, cafe & cruiser bikes, and classics. Cars that do not fall under the mentioned categories can still be featured but must be specified on the registration sheet.

anas.edu to download a reg-

istration form. The form can also be picked up at the NMC cashier window. A completed registration form can be sent to charter.day@marianas.edu or submitted to NMC's cashier window. The deadline to register is on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, no later than 4pm. Interested participants are encouraged to apply early due to limited space. On the day of the event, check-in will be at 3pm by Building W.

The Charter Day Car Show is a non-competitive event and registration for a slot is on a first come first serve basis.

The NMC Charter Day celebration is an annual celebration that commemorates the establishment of the College in 1981. It is one of the largest celebrations in the CNMI and will include live entertainment, competitions, and other activities for the whole family. This year's event will take place on Friday, April 13, 2018, from 4pm to 10pm at the NMC South Field in As Terlaje.

For more information about the car show, NMC Charter Day, competitions, entertainment, or vendor information, visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)

Car enthusiasts are reminded to register for NMC's Charter Day Car Show on April 13, 2018, from 4pm-10pm.



Former flight inspector pleads guilty to wire fraud on Guam

HAGATNA, (AP)—Court documents say a former Federal Aviation Administration safety inspector pleaded guilty on Guam to three counts of honest services wire fraud.

The Pacific Daily News reports that the case against Timothy J. Cislo was unsealed last week after he entered a plea deal. Cislo is accused of issuing certificates to Hansen Helicopters Inc. without inspecting the helicopters in exchange for an airplane for his personal use.

Cislo was tasked with issuing and reissuing airworthiness certificates, which are official documents that allow aircrafts to operate, from about May 2014 through January 2018.

Court documents say Cislo was an inspector in Hawaii when he received the Taylorcraft BC-12D aircraft worth \$20,000.

A conviction for honest wire services carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

FOR FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF COURT'S **DISCOVERY RULES**

Judge admonishes lawyers of Torres Brothers law firm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has admonished the lawyers at the law firm of Torres Brothers LLC for their "obvious and flagrant" violations of the court's discovery rules in connection with a lawsuit over a vehicular accident.

Camacho said no monetary sanction is awarded for the time and effort of the Office of the Attorney General to bring such motion to compel and for sanctions before the court

However, Camacho addressed all counsels and advised and admonished that attorneys are officers of the court and should act accordingly.

"The rules of discovery and depositions are designed to allow both sides to know the strength and weaknesses of their case, to facilitate settlement, etc.," the judge said.

Discovery refers to a pretrial procedure in a lawsuit in which a party can obtain evidence from the other party or parties by means of devices such as a request for answers to interrogatories and request for production.

Deposition is the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

Lawyers Victorino DLG Torres and Matthew J. Holley, of Torres Brothers LLC, appeared as counsel for plaintiff Lars Palacios, during a motion to compel and for sanctions last Jan. 30 filed by defendant John San Nicolas.

Asked for comments yesterday, Holley said the motion to compel concerned confidential settlement The judge said the mere admitted.

Palacios and a third party.

"Because it was confidential, plaintiff waited for a court order before disclosing to the Commonwealth. There were no sanctions, the court reminded both parties of our obligations," Holley said.

The Office of the Attorney General's Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons and assistant attorney

general Hessel E. Yntema IV represented San Nicolas, who is a government employee.

Palacios filed the lawsuit against San Nicolas in 2015 over a vehicular accident that hap-

pened along Chalan Pale Arnold Road on May 27, 2014.

Camacho

According to the lawsuit, Palacios was traveling south on the inner lane of Chalan Pale Arnold and was turning left to the Commonwealth Health Center.

San Nicolas, who was driving a government vehicle, was allegedly travelling very fast and hit Palacios' vehicle. As a result, Palacios allegedly suffered multiple injuries.

Palacios sued San Nicolas for reckless, careless, and negligent driving.

In his order, Camacho told Palacios' counsel, Torres Brothers, that they should not forget that during the course of discovery, and specifically in deposition, all questions not otherwise privileged shall be answered and attorneys shall not interfere with opposing party's questioning.

Camacho said there is no "settlement agreement privilege."

agreement between plaintiff fact that a settlement agreement may contain a confidentiality provision does not constitute good cause, let alone a compelling reason to shield the information from the public at large, let alone from the litigation process.

Camacho said the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure provide that objections that are to be made at the time of the examina-

> tion, shall be noted on the record; but the examination shall proceed, with the testimony being taken subject to the objection.

> "Counsel is not to assume the role of judge and in-

struct a witness not to answer a question at deposition," Camacho pointed out.

The judge directed all parties to conform their conduct to the civil rules during discovery.

Palacios was ordered to resume his deposition and truthfully answer San Nicolas' remaining questions.

The remaining questions include those relating to Palacios' lawsuit against Hana Tour Service Inc. and Hun Doo Lim in a separate 2015

Palacios was further ordered to produce documents responsive to San Nicolas' request for production; to provide full and complete answers (and related documents), based on all currently available information to San Nicolas' interrogatory.

Palacios was further ordered to admit or deny San Nicolas' requests for admission of two matters or the same should be deemed

Over 250 animals spayed and neutered

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The low-price spay and neutering offered by the Saipan Mayor's Office over a week ago successfully treated over 200 animals.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Aptang,

there were about 250 dogs that were spayed or neutered, but he was not exactly sure how many cats were treated during the spay and neutering campaign.

Apatang

Apatang said he had esti-

mated the treatments of 500 animals during the low-cost spay and neutering, but that population of stray animals. goal was not met.

> Apatang remained optimistic and said if funding permits, he aims to bring back the service next year.

Although the turnout for the week-long spay and

neutering was not what he had originally anticipated, Apatang said the event still turned out great because a big chunk of pets and strays (under the care of the mayor's office animal shelter)

were neutered or spayed, which in turn can lessen the

The office had gone as far as flying in trained veterinarians from Dallas, Texas. The veterinarians were from a non-profit organization called Spay Neuter Network.

Apatang said he was impressed with the Spay Neuter Network team's performance because they were both quick and efficient.

The mayor aims to recruit another professional spay and neutering team next year, but from a place closer to Saipan to cut back on the expenses.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) **CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: CPA-RFP-005-18

"WIFI SERVICE DESIGN, CONFIGURATION," INSTALLATION, AND MAINTENANCE"

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is seeking proposals from experienced and qualified Parties (hereinafter "Proposers") to design, configure, install, and maintain wireless internet service ("WIFI service") at CPA facilities on Saipan,

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning April 02, 2018, at 8:00 AM at the CPA Administration Office, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of \$50.00 per package. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting shall be held on April 09, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposers who are not familiar with the Saipan International Airport shall be afforded a site visit immediately after the pre-proposal meeting. Subsequent site inspections on Rota and Tinian will be determined during the preproposal meeting. Proposers shall be responsible for arrangements and all associated cost for the subsequent site inspections on Tinian and Rota.

Proposers must submit one original and three copies of their written proposal in sealed envelopes addressed to the Executive Director, Re: "WIFI Service at CPA Facilities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Project No. CPA-RFP-005-18," P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, which shall be received by the CPA Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport by or before 4:30 p.m., April 20, 2018, Written proposals delivered after said time and date will not be accepted.

The proposal will be evaluated by an evaluation committee. Proposals shall be restricted to the members of the evaluation committee until after the completion of the evaluation and ranking of proposals. Following completion of the evaluation and establishment of the preference ranking based on the evaluation criteria, award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to CPA taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the RFP and applied in the evaluation plan. Proposals may be prepared and opened for public inspection

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to cancel this request for proposal in accordance with CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations, to lengthen the proposal period, and to waive minor irregularities in proposals. Discussion may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. However, proposals may also be evaluated solely on the submitted written proposal without follow up or further discussion. All Proposers must agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the Request for Proposal and proposal package.

Nothing herein constitutes or implies a contract to enter into, accept or agree to any terms, conditions or rates, or to allow or promote any activity and in no way encumbers or obligates the CPA to enter into a contract of any kind with any Proposer.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO **Executive Director**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS **CUC-IFB-18-003**

LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 - LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of a lift station and forcemain, a new generator building, new and tapping into the existing forcemain. The work also includes the installation of air relief valves, gate valves, and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 300 calendar days from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on April 10th, 2018 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-18-003, Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 - Lift Station and Forcemain" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2nd, 2018, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on April 18th, 2018 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie L. Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org.

 $CUC\ reserves\ the\ right to\ reject\ any\ or\ all\ bids\ and\ waive\ any\ imperfection\ in\ the\ bid\ proposal\ in\ the\ best\ interest\ of\ the\ government.$ All bids\ shall\ become the\ property\ of\ CUC.

Executive Director

Community celebrates Easter with 2nd IPI-JKPL Egg Hunt and Spring Carnival

The courtyard of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library was once again turned into a venue for the community this past Easter Sunday, with about 200 children and their families gathered with empty basket and returned home with a bounty of eggs.

This was the successful staging of the second Imperial Pacific International-Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Carnival.

perience for the children as they got treats nestled inside the 600 decorated and colorful eggs that were strategically hidden within the courtyard of the public library and by par-

Imperial Pacific International sent its Corporate Social Responsibility team and provided assistance and resources in the second successful staging of this community event. (PR)



Children scour the courtyard of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in last Sunday's Easter Egg Hunting and Spring Carnival jointly staged in partnership with Imperial Pacific International.

It was an unforgettable exticipating in activities, as well.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A joyous scene with close to 200 children and their families gathered at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's courtyard.



Imperial Pacific International successfully held for a second year in a row the Easter Egg Hunting



A festive celebration is seen at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library grounds



Children gamely participate in the egg-hunting activities.



IPI-CSR staff led the children to one of the activities.



Parents guide their children in harvesting colorful and decorated eggs.



Imperial Pacific's Corporate Social Responsibility staff set up picnic tables for children, their parents and participants.

Fiji damaged by cyclone, PM sees 'frightening' weather ahead

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Fiji's leader says the nation is entering a "frightening new era" of extreme weather after flooding from

a cyclone killed at least four people over the weekend.

Prime Minister Vorege Bainimarama said in a speech Tuesday that climate change was causing extreme weather events to become more severe and occur more often.

Cyclone Josie struck Fiji on Sunday. The Pacific island nation of nearly 1 million people avoided a direct hit from the winds, but heavy rains and flooding caused damage to homes, businesses and vehicles on the west of the main island Viti Levu.

More than 1,000 people remain in evacuation centers. Bainimarama last November chaired a climate summit in Bonn, Germany. He says he's trying to get the message out to the world to confront the crisis.

US, FSM confer on compact assistance, trust fund meeting

WASHINGTON-U.S. and Federated States of Micronesia officials met in San Francisco last week for their mid-year meetings to discuss financial assistance provided for the benefit of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia on behalf of the people and government of the United States. The bilateral Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) and the Compact Trust Fund Committee for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia are both chaired by U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs Director Nikolao Pula.

The JEMCO met to discuss policy issues and progress in the health, education, and infrastructure sectors as funded by the Compact, while the Trust Fund Committee met to review trust fund investments and discuss policy options to inform transition from direct grants to trust fund distributions after 2023.

The Compact Trust Fund was established under U.S. Public Law 108-188 to contribute to the economic advancement and long-term budgetary self-reliance of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia when annual grant assistance under the Compact expires after fiscal year 2023.

Pohnpei State Government officials present at the meeting provided information regarding record rainfall in Pohnpei on March 16 and 17 that led to several landslides and damaged roads around the island, taking the life of one young woman. The JEMCO encouraged FSM officials to explore accessing the use of funding that is immediately available to the FSM through its Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund. This Fund is co-financed by annual deposits of Compact of Free Association and FSM Government funding.

"With respect to infrastructure, we are pleased to see professional project management at the national level and encourage that trend to continue for the states as well," said JEMCO Chair and OIA Director Nik Pula. "Continued delays in effectively utilizing infrastructure assistance made available through the Compact of Free Association are missed opportunities for development in the Federated States of Micronesia," continued Pula.

discussed efforts at the state and national Departments of Education to strengthen their school accreditation processes and policies. The committee also received updates on the status of a nearly completed Education Management Information System (EMIS), a collaborative project funded by U.S. Department of Education supplemental education grants and supported by technical assistance through the Asian Development Bank. "We strive ultimately for improved data management and analysis of education indicators to result in improved educational outcomes for children in the Federated

Chairman Pula. Leadership from the national and Yap State Departments of Health shared information on progress in bringing electronic health record keeping to hospitals and clinics across the Federated States of Micronesia. Development of this program is 80 per cent completed in the State of Pohnpei which also serves as a pilot for a telehealth program. It is hoped that successful efforts in electronic record keeping and telemedicine can be replicated in the States of Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap.

As required under the Compact of Free Association, U.S. Public Law 108-188, the JEMCO serves to ensure effective oversight of U.S. assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia and is comprised of the following members: Chairman Nikolao Pula (U.S. - Director, Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior), Vice Chairman Lorin Robert (FSM - Secretary of Foreign Affairs), Leo Falcam, Jr. (FSM- Chief of Staff, Office of the President), Nicholas Dean (U.S. – Director, Office of Australia, New Zealand & Pacific Island Affairs, Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs, State Department), and Subroto Banerji (U.S. – Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Region 9, Department of Health and Human Services).

"With respect to the Trust Funds, we all seem to concur that longevity of the Trust Fund is in the best interest of our two nations and that ensuring the stability and predictability of distributions in 2023 makes the most sense for U.S. assistance intended

The JEMCO members for the benefit of the people a smooth transition of U.S. asof the Federated States of Micronesia," said Chairman Pula. "These are technical and administrative issues that the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia need to mutually agree upon as we approach 2023 and plan

sistance from direct grants to trust fund distributions."

The Department of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the

Compacts of Free Association. The Office of Insular Affairs' mission is to restore trust and fulfill insular responsibilities by executing activities which bolster healthcare capacity, strengthen island economies, and fulfill U.S. Compact obligations. The Assistant Secretary discharges these responsibilities on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. (PR)



PACK TEST April 7, 2018 5:00 am (Kilili Beach)







The Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services [DFEMS] Forestry Strike Team is looking for individuals for our Type II Handcrew. Applicants must be disciplined, reliable, physically fit, and are able to work hard under tough conditions.

TEST: Applicants must complete a 3 mile alk (no running) with a 45 lbs pack under a 45 minute time period.

REQUIREMENTS: IS 700, certification for returning individuals and a valid passport to enter the United States. Must turn in items before the pack test.







Contact Person: Firefighter Linus L. Mizutani Jr. | Email: Ilmizutani@dfems.gov.mp | Tel.: 588-7324

10 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Citizenship is a question worth asking, but not by this president

he Trump administration's decision to include a citizenship question in the 2020 Census smacks of an effort to intimidate immigrants and reduce the congressional representation of districts with heavy non-citizen populations. That said, it's not altogether a bad question to ask, along with others that help demographers provide more accurate statistical breakdowns of the U.S. population.

Because of President Donald Trump's record on immigration, the citizenship question is now a hot button issue. Critics charge the question is motivated by the president's desire to uproot or de-legitimize non-citizens. They believe the question would discourage census participation and increase fears by undocumented immigrants — who must also be counted — that it's a government ploy to hunt them down.

The Census Bureau is banned by law from sharing respondents' answers with anyone. "Not the IRS, not the FBI, not the CIA, and not with any other government agency," the bureau says. Since California and other states are filing legal challenges, the courts probably will decide whether the question stays in the 2020 questionnaire.

No decennial census since 1950 has asked about citizenship. The Census Bureau's less-accurate American Community Survey, done yearly, does ask the question, along with others about respondents' birth countries and when foreignborn respondents arrived here. The decennial census also asks details about race and whether Hispanics are of Cuban, Mexican or other descent.

Yet those questions, approved by the Obama and Bush administrations, didn't prompt an outcry.

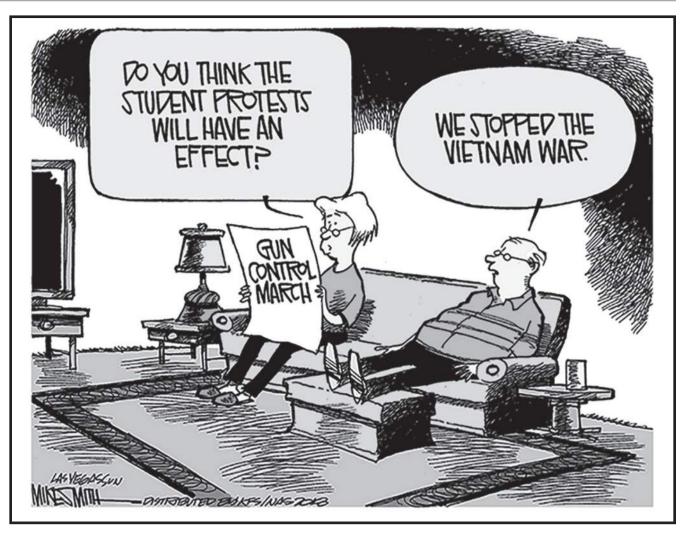
The "sole, sinister purpose" of the 2020 citizenship question "is to suppress the response rate from minorities and new immigrants to counter the growing political power of the non-white population," Rep. William Lacy Clay, D-St. Louis, stated Tuesday.

It's nearly impossible to pinpoint which questions, including citizenship, cause respondents to bolt. The Census Bureau says it gets similarly high non-response rates when the question is about educational attainment or monthly gas costs. Oddly, the question with the highest non-response rate is: Do you purchase annual property insurance?

Because the citizenship question is already in the annual community surveys, we know that more than half of America's foreign-born residents are not citizens, and foreign-born residents make up 13.2 percent of the overall population. As for the oft-cited figure that 11 million undocumented immigrants reside in America, that's pure guesswork. Nobody knows for sure.

Adding to detractors' suspicions is the fact that Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach was among those urging the president to add the citizenship question. Kobach co-led an

See CITIZENSHIP on Next Page



Dinaña` Man-natibu

ropiu i tiempu para tafan daña' ni man-natibu pot para ta tutuhun sattun na inestablesen inagofli'e gi entre hita mismu. Presisu na dinaña' pot satbasion unu yan todu. Hasan man-daña hit pot para ta defende dignun natibu kumu petmanente na tautau este siha na petlas. Kulan ta sotta hagas hihot yan sattun na dinaña' tautau-ta 'nai kada unu konsu lamoña na biahe.

Lau manlistu hit man-daña` pot asuntun otru tat kumu si Emelia Earhart, un` pilotu ni tatnai mattu guine. Ya kontodu monumentu para umahatsaye? De dios!

Hafa kontribusioña si Earhart para i natibu? Guaha maseha unu ni ma`ug na rekuetdu para i tautau tanu`? Haf` na ti hagas man-menhalum na man-amko`ta ni umesgaihon antes i linahyan gi halum mattirun didog siha na tinilaika?

Ta hasñgun umupus prohimu Matsue` ni prumueba na siña kometsiu guine ni muna` fanla`la` i natibu antes de gera. Kau todu este na malagresidu gi prohimu ni sumede fangualu`an yan peska antes muna` guaha homlu` na linala` familia?

Maila` ta tutuhun dinaña` tautau-ta pot satbasion unu yan todu! Na para este i sagun pot otru yan monumentu!

Tanu': Presetbasion tanu' gaige gi antigu na usun lugat 'nai mahatsa fanliheñg familia. I mismu lugat 'nai man-gualu' i mañaina-ta prebinsion familia. Estague' sustansiaña tanu' 'sino petlas iya Marianas. Estague' na añkla 'nai gaige tinatten relasion-ta yan tano'ta: Guma' Natibu!

Dinisplanta: I tautau ni taya` tano`ña namase` pot displantau. Ni guma` familia ti siña ha hatsa soluke u fan atkila pat sensaga. Makat na finapus para i famaguon ni man-malimitte pot ti gima niha`nai man-gaige.

Iya America dañkulu na tanu`, punta pot punta. Libianu manhanau para otru estadu sin ditension. Ayu pinayun niha areglun siuda `nai guaha dañkulu na tenda, eskuela, hospitat yan otru siha fasilidat. Gigon hoñgga na mas mauleg gi otru estadu mañgahulu` ya mamueba siha.

Gi dikiki siha na petlas, dañkuloña i tasi ke tanu` ya ti anchu para otru siha dinisehan familia. Dispues de Agiñgan ya Magpi` bira hau tatte `nai un` tutuhun hau. Gaige gi ge` hiyuñg dañkulun tasi. Masheha dikiki` yan mahihot man-la`la` i natibu gi haf` guinahan niha. Gloria gi Saina pot este siha na rekueddu.

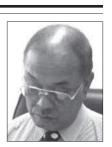
Respetu: Komprendiyun i mattirun sague` tinilaika ni inafuetsas modetnu na modun kinalamten. Desde finagpu` gera man-hanau hit para i moseria (cho`chu`). Ta diñgu i tradision fangualu`an yan tasi faborapble gi moseria entalu` praibet yan gobietnu.

Mas ha aminasa hit i finattun television yan presisu na ineyag gi usun internet 'sino "digital age". Gi man-mamamaila' siha na tinilaika guaha mohon kampu para ta sustene sustansian kutturan

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



natibu? Huñgan, tinilaika ti u para lau gaige giya hita i para ta saluda sattun na respetu i fina`pos mañaina-ta.

Seguruyu` na u saga gi sentrun hinasso-ta ma-abiban uniku kuttura yan tradision natibu gi karera mona. Presisu na pisu gi kinalamten masustene sustansian tautau-ta. Chatmiyu fan malelefa na gaige i primera sahyan gi liñguahita.

Sin mas, sumen namagof i manrespetau i famaguonta ni krineansan dos saina. Desde man-ñgiñge, saludu yan inadahe gi modu yan palabran niha fumatta na mauleg na guma``nai manmapogsai. Na` banidosu na espehos gi dos saina.

Justisia: Katoliku i kutturan relihion iya Marianas ni inestablesen Españot desde mas ke 400 antes. Ginen relihion-ta `nai ta tutuhun ineyag justisia.

Pot ihemplo, gi antigu na komunida, tres klasen Chamorro guaha: Matua, Acha'ot yan Manachañg. I Matua solu dueñun tanu'. Tai tanu' i dos gi sanpapa'. Ha tulaika este na areglu i Españot ya hana' fan gai tanu' todu. Tutuhun justisia gi halum natibu 'nai todu man-parehu.

Yine'ase': Basta ke mañgatoliku hit, motmut lokue' sensian yinea'se' gi tautauta gi man-chatsaga. Manlistu hit umekstende kanaita gi dichu nesessidat.

Este na sensia gaige gi kanaha` todu tautau-ta. Namagof pot man-listu hit gi uttimu nesessidat prohimu-ta ni gai chinatsaga. Motmut na bendision para todu.

Asuntu: Guaha siha na attikulu libianu ta komprende. Guaha debi tafan seha pot para ta estudiaye, analisa, yan asimula haf dichu impottansian yan sustansian i asuntu. Ha sede hit pumula adumididi` pot gai motmurasion `sino ginatdun.

Tika: 'Nai estudiante-yu' sessu hu gachuñge un' bihan mame 'an mamatinas tika—lañan niyog. Magahet na animu. Ha uma kinacha' niyog (50 libra) desde As Lito' esta iya Chalan Kanoa kada semana. Mata'chong dispues ya ha kamyu.

Tinaka` kase tres oras estake u gama i laña gi hilu` loglug hanum. Hana deskansa i guafe. Gi lemlem tautau ha sohgue ya ha pega gi buteya. Ha chulili`e hagaña giya Guahan lañan niyog

See DINAÑA on Next Page

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The 2nd Amendment isn't the problem

etired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens has raised a ruckus with a call to repeal the 2nd Amendment. It pains me to disagree with a lion of the court, but I think a repeal effort would be deeply misguided. It's politically unwise and legally unnecessary.

Advocating for repeal, in essence, advocates for National Rifle Association leader Wayne LaPierre's vision of the Constitution. But the 2nd Amendment doesn't guarantee unlimited gun rights, and it never has. The Constitution is not a bar to sane gun legislation. A broken political system and a failure of will in Congress and statehouses are the culprits, not the words scratched on parchment two and a half centuries ago.

Of course, Stevens is more than just a pundit weighing in on gun control. He wrote a key dissent in the Supreme Court case of District of Columbia vs. Heller. That 2008 case was the first time the court recognized an individual right to gun ownership for purposes other than service in a "well regulated militia." In Stevens' view, however, the majority had "utterly failed to establish (such a right) as a matter of history or text."

Stevens said as much again in his op ed, and he is certainly correct on the provision's history. It was designed to protect the ability of state militias and their citizen soldiers to stand up against what the Framers feared might be a tyrannical central government. All white men were required to serve in the militia, and to own a gun. The intent was to protect an individual right to gun ownership in order to fulfill the duty to serve in the militia. (James Madison's original proposal also had a conscientious objector clause.)

Today's America — especially with its proliferation of guns and gun violence — would be unrecognizable to Madison and his compatriots. All through early U.S. history, gun rights and responsibilities went together. In Boston at the time of the 2nd

Amendment, for example, it was illegal to keep a loaded weapon in the home (they tended to blow up and start fires). In 1825, the University of Virginia board of visitors voted that no student "shall keep or use weapons or arms of any kind" on campus. Who were these gun grabbers? Madison, again, and Thomas Jefferson, to name two.

The idea that the 2nd Amendment protects an unlimited individual right to gun possession is "a fraud on the American public," conservative former chief justice, Warren Burger told a TV interviewer in 1990. But that's hardly conservative conventional wisdom today. So why not repeal the amendment?

Start with constitutional doctrine. The Heller decision established an individual right to gun ownership, but it also made clear that it was a limited right, and that gun laws would still pass constitutional muster. Justice Antonin Scalia's majority opinion focused on colonial history to bolster the individual right, but it said that "dangerous and unusual weapons" could be banned and a host of other gun rules would pass muster.

What has actually happened in the decade since Scalia and Stevens thundered at each other? Dozens of lower federal courts have carefully considered gun laws. Sometimes they limit government action. But overwhelmingly they have upheld safety regulations, even bans on semiautomatic assault weapons enacted by New York and Connecticut after the Newtown, Conn., massacre of schoolchildren. The Supreme Court justices have declined to take another 2nd Amendment case, thus allowing this consensus to take root.

If the Constitution makes it unnecessary to erase the amendment, politics makes it unwise, even self-defeating. There's a reason the NRA calls itself the country's "oldest civil rights organization." Far better to be seen as championing the Bill of

By MICHAEL WALDMAN

Los Angeles Times

Michael Waldman is the author of "The Second Amendment: A Biography." He is president of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law.



Rights than defending guns, ammunition and mayhem. Even among those who support strong gun safety laws, there are many who would feel queasy about deleting one of the first 10 amendments. The reality is that the United States has gun rights because millions of Americans believe in those rights.

Stevens' op ed is right on this: It's time to think big about the gun issue. The remarkable demonstrations by hundreds of thousands of people, led by high school students, show a pent-up demand for action to regulate firearms. It's as if an entire generation shook off the compromises and acquiesence of their elders. As with the #metoo movement or the drive for marriage equality, sometimes social mores can shift sharply and quickly. What has held the country back is not the Constitution or court rulings, but legislatures in thrall to the intense minority of gun rights absolutists. Now a new group of passionate advocates has emerged. Let's see if they rebalance the political world.

A call to repeal the 2nd Amendment is a gift the NRA doesn't deserve. It gives cover to the false notion that gun control advocates want to "take our guns." We should fight, instead, for the true reading of the Constitution: We can have freedom and safety at the same time.

Wildfires' heaviest costs fall on cities and counties

he cost of California's historic 2017 wildfires has not been completely tallied but likely will reach into the hundreds of billions of dollars. What we do know is this: Cities and counties, in the end, will foot at least half of the bill.

This isn't what people generally think happens after a natural disaster like a wildfire, when we imagine the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other taxpayer-funded agencies swooping in to help. But my research organization recently analyzed multiple studies calculating the full costs of a wildfire — including the losses that add up years later. The expense of putting out the flames — mostly borne by federal and state agencies like Cal Fire — represents only the first 9 percent of the total cost.

Then come the near-term losses: lost property, lost homes, aid for temporary shelter, fixing roads and stabilizing hillsides. Those add up to 35 percent of the total, and are paid for not just by FEMA, but also nongovernmental agencies like the Red Cross and insurance companies.

The bulk of fire costs — 65 percent of them — stem from long-term damages: depreciated property values, reduced property taxes, lost business revenue, infrastructure repair and degraded ecosystems that need rehabilitation.

Local government bodies pay at each of these stages, but particularly over the long haul. The result is that at least half of wild-fire costs accrue to cities and counties.

Some communities bring a certain amount of this trouble on

themselves. Eager for new tax revenues, local governments readily approve new subdivisions with little regard to fire hazards. In addition, our wave of retiring baby boomers loves living close to nature, so more homes are being built with national forests as their backyards. From 1990 to 2010, the number of new homes in the wildland-urban interface — where homes mingle with a flammable landscape — grew by 41 percent.

Meantime, fires got a lot bigger and more deadly — a trajectory likely to continue because of climate change. Compared with the 1990s, wildfires today burn twice as many acres on average. Wildfire suppression costs have tripled during that time span.

City councils and county commissions aren't helpless in the face of these public safety and financial risks. A more stringent approach to land use planning is critical. In Missoula, Mont., for instance, detailed wildfire risk maps are used to direct future development out of harm's way.

When new housing is allowed near forested land, building standards need to include using wildfire-resistant materials. Even in California, which is known for having some of the most forward-thinking rules on construction, communities often relax building standards after a devastating wildfire to speed up rebuilding. This is shortsighted and dangerous.

Some argue that fire-resistant materials are too costly and drive up the cost of housing. So for another study, done in partnership with the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, we modeled a typical house and compared the cost of

By RAY RASKER

Los Angeles Times

Ray Rasker is the executive director of Headwaters Economics.



traditional construction to that of using recommended building materials, such as double-glazed windows with tempered glass and fire-resistant decking, and techniques such as covering roof vents with special screens. These upgrades increased the overall cost of a home only 5 percent to 10 percent.

A number of communities have taken this message to heart. Flagstaff, Ariz., and Wenatchee, Wash., are two that adopted regulations requiring wildfire-resistant construction after experiencing devastating fires.

Scores of communities across California are just now starting to confront what our research found: that the cost of the 2017 fires will burden local homeowners, businesses and governments for many years to come. Decisions on how and where to rebuild lie ahead for them, and this is the moment they should implement wildfire-resistant building policies, for the protection of both lives and city coffers.

CITIZENSHIP

From Page 10

absurd GOP effort to uncover nonexistent voter fraud in the 2016 presidential election. It fell apart when even Republican-

led states refused to participate.

Trump's critics assume that blue states like California, with a 27 percent foreign-born population, would be most heavily affected if the citizenship question prompts lower response rates. But solid-red Texas and Florida, with high foreign-born populations, also could suffer.

So far, the administration has done a lousy job of explaining its motivation. Given Trump's harsh record on immigration, we can only suspect the worst, which is why federal court is the best place to force all sides to argue their positions — with facts, not hunches or emotions.

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DINAÑA

From Page 10

kontodu bukayu.

Fuera de huli'e mafatinasña i tika, megai siha estorian antes hu huñgog ginen i amku' mientras mañgañgam-yu niyog. Sumasaunau areglun fuetsau inayeg mañaina haye para teñguañg famaguon niha matrimoñu. Unu i amku' gi ma-ayeg kontiempu haye para asaguaña.

Dispues de todu ya sumuha-yu` ginen i Lali Fo` huhuñgog na dimalas i amku` gi uttimu kareraña para Guahan. Konrespetu tumekun-yu` manayuyot pot todu man-suanu na akonsehu gi hilu` pinasensia.

Tinanum: Un' oga'an hu rikonose i tinanum siha gi oriyan guma desde gulusina yan petmanente na troñku. Pues matachoñg-yu' gi baranda ya sige hu pasalista papa' haf' mattu gi hinasog-hu. I sigiente sinida'hu:

Troñku: Pagu, banalu, kamachili, lemun, niyog, atbut, mayu, lapugua`, pugua`, mañga, tañgantañgan, choda, gagu, pahuñg,

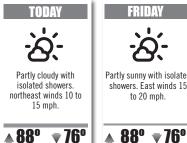
chopak, lodigao, raoel, lada, kalaskas, lemai, dokduk, pahoñg yan sosigi`. Bula lokue` otru siha tinanum ti hutuñgu`. Gulusina: abas, laguana, ates, kahet, lalañgita, lageta`, bilembinis, anonas, yan mansanan halum tanu`.

Mauleg para i tautau i kulot betde ayu mina hu agradese tinanum gi oriyan guma'. Repara ayu i bumisisita tat lugat kumu American Memorial Park pat manu na kantun tasi. Man-pasifiku sensian niha ginen kulot betde gi oriya. Tanume troñkun niyog tres años para usun familia. Gaige listu para usumu 'an un' nesessita.

12 THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

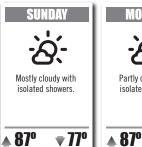
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN











▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE

▼76°

▲ 88°



PICTURE TIME: 7:33 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough stretched southward from the remains of Tropical Storm Jelawat near 20N151E. This trough was located east of the Marianas. The remains of Jelawat and the trough will move eastward. North winds prevail across the local area behind the trough. As the distance between the Marianas and the trough increase winds will become northeast and eventually east by Thursday. Satellite imagery showed an area of clouds pushing down to the local area so added Mostly Cloudy skies to the forecast for today. Models show an area of trade-wind convergence occurring over the Marianas the second half of the week bringing mostly cloudy skies Thursday through Saturday. Despite the clouds expect only isolated showers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	4	▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	85° / 80°

Majuro Mostly Sunny 85° / 80° AROUND THE GLOBE ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣			
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Busan Showers 55° / 54° Rome Partly Cloudy 64° / 46° Salem Showers 65° / 40° San Francisco Cloudy 59° / 54° Seoul Partly Cloudy 54° / 37° Tokyo Windy 72° / 64°	Osaka	Rain	72° / 52°
Rome Partly Cloudy 64° / 46° Salem Showers 65° / 40° San Francisco Cloudy 59° / 54° Seoul Partly Cloudy 54° / 37° Tokyo Windy 72° / 64°	Paris	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 39°
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Seoul Partly Cloudy 54° / 37° Tokyo Windy 72° / 64°	Salem	Showers	65° / 40°
Tokyo Windy 72° / 64°	San Francisco	Cloudy	59° / 54°
	Seoul	Partly Cloudy	54° / 37°
Washington, DC Sunny 56° / 46°	Tokyo	Windy	72° / 64°
	Washington, DC	Sunny	56° / 46°



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5:00 AM	LOW TIDE	0.92
10:08 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.75
5:20 PM	LOW TIDE	0.09
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:34 am	10:41 pm
Friday	-	10:20 am	11:31 pm
Saturday	-	11:07 am	-
Sunday	12:20 am	11:55 pm	-
Monday	1:07 AM	12:44 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES					
SAIPAN-G	SUAM (GI	JM)			
UA6394 UA6392 UA6391 UA6390 UA6398 UA6396	4:15am 8:40am 1:30pm 2:20pm 6:05pm 9:50pm	5:05am 9:30am 3:10pm 3:10pm 6:55pm 10:40pm	Daily Daily 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota 2, 3, 6 Daily Daily		

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

4:20pm 7:15pm

Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

DL297

7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7 7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

2:00am 6:05am TW308 Daily 07626 2:10am 6:00am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 0Z626 2:50am 6:40am LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7 7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily 7C3401 4:00pm 7:45pm Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648 5:40am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396 7:30am 12:00pm JD396 4:50pm 10:00pm

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646 4:20am 7:30am

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764 1:30am 6:35am 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z626/701 2:10am 10:55am 1 via ICN 0Z626/701 2:50am 10:55am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA6394/191 4:15am 9:00am 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM UA6394/PR111 7 via GUM 4:15am 8:10am UA6394/PR111 4:15am 9:20am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM UA6398/183 6:05pm 9:40pm 2, 5 via GUM 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA6398/183 6:05pm 9:50pm UA6398/193 6:05pm 11:50pm 2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HXU//	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
0Z626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
HX077 OZ626/721 OZ626/721 UO43 UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

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	GUAM (0	GUM)-SAIF	PAN	
	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
	1			

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

Daily

DL298 10:30am 3:05pm

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN 7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3452

9:30am 3:00pm 7C3402 Daily 7:40pm 1:00am+1 07625 TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily 0Z625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 9:10pm 2:40am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily

9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

10:20pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

ID395 8:25am 3:30pm JD395 9:55pm 5:00am+1 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1,5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

4:25pm 12:30am+1 2, 4, 6

MU763

3, 6 via GUM UA182/6395 12:40am 8:05am UA190/6397 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM 0Z702/625 12:25pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN 12:25pm 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN 07702/625 1:40am+1 PR110/UA6395 10:05pm 8:05am+1 Daily via GUM 2, 5 via ROR-GUM UA192/6395 10:30pm 8:05am+1 UA184/6395 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

02/22/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	/ VIA ICIN
0Z722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
0Z72Z/625 0Z72Z/625 HX076 U042 U042 UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

1204						
TINIAN TO SAIPA FREQUENCY 1211 5:00PM 1212 6:00PM 1212 7:30AM 12102 7:30AM 12102 7:30AM 12102 7:30AM 12102 7:30AM 12102 12:30PM 12:30P	FLIGHT # 1301 1302	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM	8:00AM 12:00PM	Daily Daily	1205 1206 1207 1208	11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM
1212 6:00PM 1212 7:00AM 2:00PM	ROTA TO	SAIPAN				
3102						
FLIGHT # DEPARTURE 3401 ARRIVAL 12:45PM FREQUENCY Daily 2103 2104 2104 2105 2105 2105 2105 2105 2105 8:30AM 2104 2105 2105 2105 2105 2105 2105 2105 2105				Daily		O SAIPAI DEPARTU
SAIPAN TO TINIAN SAIPAN TO TINIAN FREQUENCY 2104 9:30AM 2105 10:30AM 2106 11:30PM 2106 11:30PM 2106 11:30PM 2107 12:30PM 2108 1:30PM 2108 1:30PM 2108 1:30PM 2109 2:30PM 2110 2:30PM	ROTA TO	GUAM				
GUAM TO ROTA 2106 11:30AM FLIGHT # DEPARTURE 4301 ARRIVAL 1:30PM FREQUENCY 2107 12:30PM SAIPAN TO TINIAN 2108 1:30PM FLIGHT # DEPARTURE 1201 ARRIVAL 7:15AM Daily PREQUENCY 2111 4:30PM 4:30PM 2112 1201 7:00AM 7:15AM Daily 2112 5:30PM 213 1202 8:00AM 8:15AM Daily 2113 6:30PM					2104	9:30AM
4301 1:00PM 1:30PM Daily 2108 1:30PM SAIPAN TO TINIAN FLIGHT# DEPARTURE 7:00AM ARRIVAL 7:15AM PREQUENCY Daily 2111 4:30PM 1201 7:00AM 7:15AM Daily 2112 5:30PM 1202 8:00AM 8:15AM Daily 2113 6:30PM	GUAM TO	ROTA				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN 2110 3:30PM FLIGHT# DEPARTURE ARRIVAL 7:00AM 7:15AM Daily 2112 2111 4:30PM 2112 4:30PM 2112 5:30PM 2112 5:30PM 2112 5:30PM 2113 6:30PM 2113	4301	1:00PM			2108	1:30PM
FLIGHT# DEPARTURE ARRIVAL FREQUENCY 2111 4:30PM 1201 7:00AM 7:15AM Daily 2112 5:30PM 1202 8:00AM 8:15AM Daily 2113 6:30PM	SAIPAN T	O TINIAN				
	1201 1202	7:00AM 8:00AM	7:15AM 8:15AM	Daily Daily	2111 2112	4:30PM 5:30PM

1207 1208 1209 1210	1:00PM 2:00PM 3:00PM 4:00PM	1:15PM 2:15PM 3:15PM 4:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily
1211 1212	5:00PM 6:00PM	5:15PM 6:15PM	Daily Daily
TINIAN 1	TO SAIPAN		
FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily

4:45PM

5:45PM

6:45PM

Daily

Daily

Daily

10:15AM

11:15AM

12:15PM

Daily

Daily

Daily

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018 13 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Bridge Capital's First Celebrity Bagging

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) poses for a photo with a Bridge Capital LLC reusable bag during the Celebrity Bag-



Trench Tech Gym's Shane Alvarez, left, and GetFitCNMI Gym's Jose Quan poses for a photo during the Celebrity Bagging event last Saturday at Joeten Garapan.



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) poses with a Bridge Capital LLC reusable bag during the Celebrity Bagging event last Saturday at Joeten Susupe.



Trench Tech Gym's Cuki Alvarez bags groceries during the Celebrity Bagging event last Saturday at Joeten Garapan.



Latte Built Gym's Derrek Cutting poses for a photo during the Celebrity Bagging event last Saturday at Joeten Garapan.



Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance rangers Wayne Dawe, left, and Daniel Kaipat pose for a photo during the Celebrity Bagging event last Saturday at Joeten



Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), second from the left, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), far right, pose with Bridge Capital and Joeten Enterprises staff during the Celebrity Bagging event last Saturday at Joeten Susupe.



Bridge Capital chief operations officer Tucker Baldwin, far left, poses for a photo with his staff during the Celebrity Bagging event last Saturday at Joeten Garapan.



Senate president Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) bags groceries during the Celebrity Bagging event last Saturday at Joeten Garapan.



TanHoldings' Catherine Attao, right, bags groceries during the Celebrity Bagging event last Saturday at Joeten Susupe.



Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Gloria Cavanaugh bags groceries during the Celebrity Bagging event last Saturday at

14 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

US vs China: a 'slap-fight,' not a trade war. So far

WASHINGTON (AP)—First, the United States imposed a tax on Chinese steel and aluminum. Then, China counterpunched Monday with tariffs on a host of U.S. products, including apples, pork and ginseng.

On Wall Street, the stock market buckled on the prospect of an all-out trade war between the world's two biggest economies. But it hasn't come to that - not yet, anyway.

"We're in a trade slap-fight right now," not a trade war, said Derek Scissors, resident scholar and China specialist at the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

China is a relatively insignificant supplier of steel and aluminum to the United States. And the \$3 billion in U.S. products that Beijing targeted Monday amount to barely 2 percent of American goods exported to China.

But the dispute could escalate, and quickly. Already, in a separate move, the United States is drawing up a list of about \$50 billion in Chinese imports to tax in an effort to punish Beijing for stealing American technology or forcing U.S. companies to hand



over trade secrets.

China could respond by targeting American commercial interests uniquely dependent on the Chinese market: the aircraft giant Boeing, for example, and soybean farmers.

The possibility that the U.S. and China will descend into a full-blown trade war knocked the Dow Jones industrial average down as much as 758 points in afternoon trading. The Dow recovered some ground and finished down

458.92 points, or 1.9 percent, at 23,644.19.

For weeks, in fact, President Donald Trump's aggressive trade actions have depressed the stock market.

But many trade analysts suggested that the Wall Street selloff may be an overreaction.

China's swift but measured retaliation to the U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs is meant to show "that it will not be pushed around but that it does not want a trade war," said

Amanda DeBusk, chair of the international trade department at the law firm Hughes Hubbard & Reed. "It is possible for the countries to pull back from the brink."

"It seems to be pretty measured and proportional," agreed Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade official who is now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "They didn't seem to overreach, and they didn't hit our big-ticket items

In this March 23, 2018, file photo, a woman wearing a uniform with the logo of an American produce company helps a customer shop for apples a supermarket in Beijing.

like planes and soybeans."

Even if China's tariffs don't have a huge impact on America's \$20 trillion economy, they will bring pain to specific communities.

Take Marathon County in Wisconsin, where 140 local families grow ginseng, a root that is used in herbal remedies and is popular in Asia. Around \$30 million - or 85 percent - of the area's ginseng production went to China as exports or gifts. The county, which gave Trump nearly 57 percent of its vote in 2016, holds an international ginseng festival in September, crowning a Ginseng Queen and drawing visitors from China and Taiwan.

China's new 15 percent tariff on ginseng is "definitely going to hit the growers hard if this happens," said Jackie Fett, executive director of the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin. "It is the livelihood of many

people. ... We're still holding on to a little bit of hope" that the tariffs can be reversed.

Jim Schumacher, co-owner of Schumacher Ginseng in Marathon, Wisconsin, said the 15 percent tax will hurt: "You've got to be price-competitive, even if you have the top-quality product. We're definitely concerned. We hope something can be resolved."

Trump campaigned on a promise to overhaul American trade policy. In his view, what he calls flawed trade agreements and sharp-elbowed practices by China and other trading partners are in part responsible for America's gaping trade deficit - \$566 billion last year. The deficit in the trade of goods with China last year hit a record \$375 billion.

In his first year in office, Trump's talk was tougher than his actions on trade. But he has gradually grown more aggressive. In January, he slapped tariffs on imported solar panels and washing machines. Last month, he imposed duties on steel and aluminum imports—but spared most major economies except China and Japan.

EPA to ease back emissions standards

Environmental regulators announced on Monday they will ease emissions standards for cars and trucks, saying that a timeline put in place by President Barack Obama was not appropriate and set standards "too high."

The Environmental Protection Agency said it completed a review that will affect vehicles for model years 2022-2025 but it did not specify details on new standards, which it said would be forthcoming. Current regulations from the EPA require the fleet of new vehicles to get 36 miles per gallon in real-world driving by 2025. That's about 10 mpg over the existing standard.

The agency said in its decision that the regulation set under the Obama administration "presents challenges for auto manufacturers due to feasibility and practicability, raises potential concerns related to automobile safety, and results in significant additional costs

on consumers, especially low-income consumers."

The EPA, in partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will work to come up with new standards.

Automakers applauded Monday's decision, arguing that the current requirements would have cost the industry billions of dollars and raised vehicle prices due to the cost of developing the necessary technology.

"This was the right decision, and we support the Administration for pursuing a data-driven effort and a single national program as it works to finalize future standards," said Gloria Bergquist, vice president, communications and public affairs for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers in a statement. "We appreciate that the Administration is working to find a way to both increase fuel economy standards and keep new vehicles affordable to more Americans."

Environmentalists, meanwhile, warned the proposed rollbacks will make U.S. cars more expensive to fill up.

"No one in America is eager to buy a car that gets worse gas mileage and spews more pollution from its tailpipe," said Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund. "Designing and building cleaner, more cost-efficient cars is what helped automakers bounce back from the depths of the recession and will be key to America's global competitiveness in the years ahead."

Any change is likely to set up a lengthy legal showdown with California, which has the power to set its own pollution and gas mileage standards and doesn't want them to change. About a dozen other states follow California's rules, and together they account for more than one-third of the vehicles sold in the U.S. Currently the federal and California standards are the same.

Florida lawmaker who helped craft new tax law stands to gain

WASHINGTON (AP)—As Republicans streamed out of Washington in late January for their annual retreat, dozens of them headed to Union Station near the U.S. Capitol to catch a train to the luxury Greenbrier resort in West Virginia. Rep. Vern Buchanan wasn't among them. The Florida lawmaker made the short trip in his Embraer Phenom 300, an executive jet that costs around \$9 million.

Already one of the wealthiest lawmakers on Capitol Hill, Buchanan could become even wealthier after he and other Republicans muscled a sweeping rewrite of the U.S. tax code through Congress late last year that includes breaks for the real estate and automobile industries that generate most of his income.

The potential windfall for Buchanan—worth at least \$80 million and perhaps much more—echoes on a smaller scale how favorable

the new tax law is to President Donald Trump, whose fiery populism won him support from struggling American workers and families. While Trump and Republican allies have billed the tax law he signed as a victory for a stressed middle class, the \$1.5 trillion package provides the most significant tax cuts for corporations and the most prosperous Americans.

Not a single Democrat in the House and Senate voted for the legislation, which they've depicted as a payout to the GOP's largest donors. Seeking to convince voters otherwise, Republicans have trumpeted announcements from companies that credit the overhaul as the reason their workers are getting bonuses and wage increases.

But the biggest winners are those who are already doing well.

The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center estimated that for the richest 0.1 percent—those making over \$3.4 million—the tax cut should be worth 2.7 percent of their after-tax income. For middle-income earners, it's 1.6 percent, according to the center. And only high-income people would get a meaningful tax cut after 2025, when nearly all the plan's individual income tax provisions are due to expire.

The tax code overhaul is especially generous to real estate businesses and car dealerships, many of which are organized as "pass-through" companies. That means they pay personal income tax on business earnings. The new law allows them to reduce their taxable business income by 20 percent.

The bedrock of Trump's personal fortune is real estate, and his company, the Trump Organization, is made up of about 500 pass-through entities, according to his lawyers.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 23,644.19 -458.92 -1.90%

S&P 2,581.88 -58.99 -58.99

NASDAQ 6,870.12 -193.33 -2.74%

Australian Dollar 1.2986 British Pound 0.7112 Canadian Dollar 1.2873 Chinese Yuan 6.1930 Euro 0.8120

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar 7.8489
Indian Rupee 64.3763
Japanese Yen 106.0770
Malaysian Ringgit 3.8249
New Zealand Dollar 1.3796
Philippine Peso 50.9840

Russian Ruble	57.4503
Singapore Dollar	1.3097
South Korean Won	1,033.73
Swiss Franc	0.9546
Taiwan Dollar	28.6542
Thailand Baht	31.1465

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018 15 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

Oklahoma teachers walk out for 2nd day in red-state revolt

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)— Many schools will remain closed for a second day in Oklahoma Tuesday as teachers continue to rally for higher pay and education funding in a rebellion that has hit

several Republican-led states

across the country.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed legislation last week granting teachers pay raises of 15 to 18 percent. But some educators - who haven't seen a pay increase in 10 yearssay that isn't good enough and walked out.

"If I didn't have a second job, I'd be on food stamps," said Rae Lovelace, a single mom and a third-grade teacher at Leedev Public Schools in northwest Oklahoma who works 30 to 40 hours a week at a second job teaching online courses for a charter school.

Oklahoma three largest school districts, Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Edmond, will remain closed Tuesday to honor the walkout. Some schools are offering free meals to students aged 18 or younger while various churches, faith organizations and charitable agencies are providing free day-care services. Spring break was last week in many



The crowd cheers during a teacher rally at the state Capitol in Oklahoma City, Monday, April 2, 2018.

Oklahoma districts.

Fallin on Monday warned that the state budget is tight and there are other critical needs besides education.

"We must be responsible not to neglect other areas of

need in the state such as corrections and health and human services as we continue to consider additional education funding measures," the Re-

But Democratic lawmaker Collin Walke said teachers should keep up the pressure.

dent's calls for Republican

lawmakers to immediately

pass a border bill using the

"Nuclear Option if neces-

Two separate bills pending in the Legislature to expand tribal gambling and eliminate the income tax deduction for capital gains could generate

"I think the Republican

out," Walke said.

Oklahoma ranks 47th among states and the District of Columbia in public school revenue per student while its average teacher salary of \$45,276 ranked 49th before the latest raises, according to the most recent statistics

from the National Education Association.

The demonstrations were inspired by West Virginia, where teachers walked out for nine days earlier this year and won a 5 percent increase in pay. Teachers in Arizona are now considering a strike over their demands for a 20 percent salary increase.

In Frankfort, Kentucky, teachers and other school employees chanted "Stop the war on public education," during a rally at the Capitol Monday.

"We're madder than hornets, and the hornets are swarming today," said Claudette Green, a retired teacher and principal.

Schools across Kentucky were closed, due either to spring break or to allow teachers and other school employees to attend the rally.

Amid a chorus of chants from teachers, Kentucky lawmakers considered a new state budget that includes higher spending for public education.

Budget negotiators unveiled a spending plan Monday that includes increased spending for the main funding formula for K-12 schools to be paid for by a 6 percent sales tax on a host of services that had previously been tax-free.

US raises prospect of Trump-Putin meeting at the White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration says it is amenable to a White House meeting between President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, raising the prospect of the Russian president's first Washington visit in more than a decade even as relations between the two powers have eroded.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the White House was among "a number of potential venues" discussed in Trump's telephone call last month with Putin. The Kremlin said earlier Monday that Trump invited Putin during the call.

Both sides said they hadn't started preparations for such a visit.

If it happens, Putin would be getting the honor of an Oval Office tete-a-tete for the first time since he met President George W. Bush at the White House in 2005. Alarms rang in diplomatic and foreign policy circles over the prospect that Trump might offer Putin that venue without confronting him about Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election or allegations that Russia masterminded the March 4 nerve agent attack on a former Russian double agent.

"It would confer a certain normalization of relations and we're certainly not in a normal space," said Alina Polyakova, a foreign policy fellow at the Brookings Institution. "Nothing about this is normal."

Much has happened since Trump and Putin spoke in the March 20 phone call. Trump said afterward he hoped to meet with Putin "in the not too distant future" to discuss the nuclear arms race and other matters. But their call was followed by reports that Trump had been warned in briefing materials not to congratulate the Russian president on his re-election but did so anyway.

Since the call, two dozen countries, including the U.S. and many European Union nations, and NATO expelled more than 150 Russian diplomats in solidarity with Britain over the poisoning of Sergei Skripal, the former spy, and his daughter Yulia. Moscow has denied any involvement in the nerve attack and retaliated by expelling the same number of diplomats from each nation.

publican said.

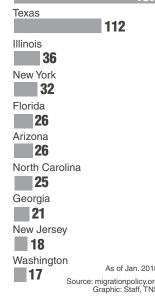
more than \$100 million in additional funding each year.

strategy is to wait the teachers

California leads in DACA recipients

Number of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program initial applications approved, in thousands.

California



requires the government to release children from custody to parents, adult relatives or other caretakers as their cases make their way through immigration court. Officials complain that many children never show up at their hearings.

The proposals appear the

same as those included on a White House immigration wish list that was released in October but failed to gain traction during negotiations over the border wall. Such proposals are likely to face opposition from moderate Republicans and Democrats going into the midterm elections. But Trump appears intent on ensuring the issues remain at the forefront of public conversation, even though the omnibus was widely seen as the last major legislation likely passed this year.

Trump spent much of the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago resort, having meals with his family, watching cable news shows and rubbing elbows with conservative commentators including Fox News host Sean Hannity, according to several club members. Also spotted at the club: champion golfer Dustin Johnson, MyPillow maker Michael J. Lindell, boxing promoter Don King and former New York Police Commissioner Bernie Kerik.

Staffers with Trump over the Easter holiday included policy adviser Stephen Miller, one of the chief architects of the administration's anti-immigration policies

Trump administration seeks to close immigration 'loopholes' WASHINGTON (AP) many of their people to our country through our WEAK Trump administration officials said they're crafting a new IMMIGRATION POLICIES," legislative package aimed at he wrote. "Caravans are headclosing immigration "looping here. Must pass tough laws holes" following the presiand build the WALL."

sary" to muscle it through. "As ridiculous as it sounds." the laws of our country do not easily allow us to send those crossing our Southern Border back where they came from. A whole big wasted procedure must take place. Mexico & Canada have tough immigration laws, whereas ours are an Obama joke. ACT CON-GRESS!" President Donald Trump wrote in a series of continual, sometimes-misleading tweets Monday after a

eral immigration hardliners. Trump also declared protections for so-called Dreamer immigrants "dead." accused Democrats of allowing "open borders, drugs and crime" and warned Mexico to halt the passage of "caravans" of immigrants or risk retribution.

weekend in Florida with sev-

"Honduras, Mexico and many other countries that the U.S. is very generous to, sends

Trump has been seething over immigration since realizing the major spending bill he signed last month barely funds the "big, beautiful" border wall he has promised his supporters. The \$1.3 trillion funding package included \$1.6 billion in border wall spending, but much of that money can be used only to repair existing segments, not to build new sections.

Among the measures the administration is pursuing: ending special safeguards that prevent the immediate deportation of children arrested at the border and traveling alone. Under current law, unaccompanied children from countries that don't border the U.S. would be placed under the supervision of the Department of Health and Human Services and undergo often-lengthy deportation proceedings before an immigration judge instead of being deported.

The administration is also

pushing Congress to terminate a 1997 court settlement that **16** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia

Malaysia approves law banning fake news ahead of elections

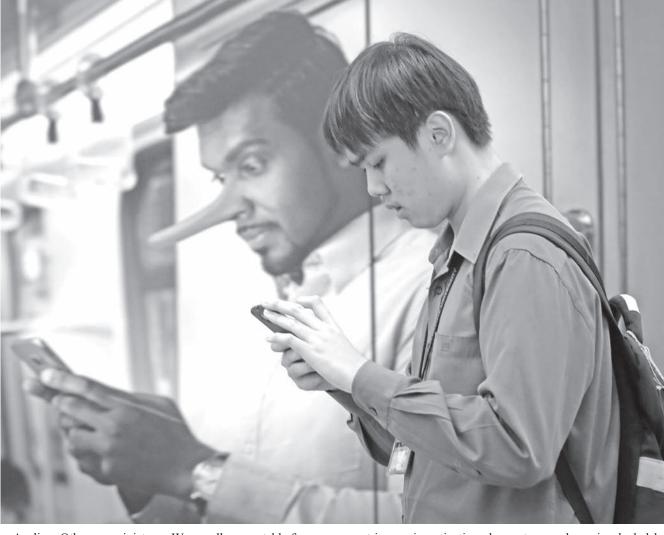
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's parliament on Monday passed a law prohibiting fake news that critics fear will be abused to silence dissent ahead of a general election.

Despite warnings such a law would lead Malaysia closer to dictatorship, the bill was approved 123 to 64 after a heated debate. The bill originally proposed a 10-year jail term and a fine of up to 500,000 ringgit (\$128,000) for offenders, but the approved legislation sets the maximum prison sentence at six years.

Rights activists say the law appears aimed at shutting down discussion of a multibillion-dollar financial scandal involving Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is widely expected to call for national elections in the next few days.

They also fear the bill, which covers all media and extends even to foreigners outside Malaysia, could be used against critics of gerrymandering or other aspects of the electoral process after parliament last week swiftly approved controversial new constituency boundaries for the elections, which are due in August but widely expected soon.

"The existing laws are sufficient, why do we need one more act? This will see one step forward to dictatorship, this is more than autocracy," opposition lawmaker Lim Guan Eng told parliament.



Azalina Othman, minister in charge of law, said social media such as Twitter and Facebook have acknowledged they are unable to monitor fake news on their platforms. She said the bill gives power to the court, not the government, to decide what is fake news.

"No one is above the law.

We are all accountable for our actions," she said.

Government officials have accused the opposition coalition of using fake news to win votes and warned that any news about the indebted 1MDB state fund that has not been verified by the govern-

The U.S. and several other

countries are investigating allegations of cross-border embezzlement and money laundering at 1MDB, which was

set up and previously led by Najib to promote economic development, but which accumulated billions in debt.

A commuters walks past an advertisement discouraging the dissemination of fake news, at a train station in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Monday, April 2,

The U.S. Justice Department says at least \$4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib, and it is working to seize \$1.7 billion taken from the fund to buy assets in the U.S., potentially its largest asset seizure ever.

Najib, who denies any wrongdoing, has fired critics in his government and muzzled the media since the corruption scandal erupted three years ago.

Support for Najib's ruling coalition has dwindled in the last two elections. In 2013, it lost the popular vote for the first time to the opposition. Yet analysts say Najib is expected to win a third term due to infighting in the opposition, the unfavorable electoral boundary changes and strong support for the government among rural ethnic Malays.

Other Southeast Asian countries, including Singapore and the Philippines, have also proposed laws to clamp down on fake news.

ASIAN BRIEFS

India govt issues sweeping rule to control 'fake news'

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's government has issued a sweeping new order allowing reporters' press credentials to be suspended simply for an accusation of spreading "fake news." The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said in a statement late Monday that the accreditation of any journalist who "created and/or propagated the fake news" would be suspended until an inquiry is completed. The statement, which doesn't define fake news or say who can make a complaint, says anyone found to be peddling fake news would lose their government accreditation for six months in the first case, one year in the second case and permanently if it happens again. The inquiries will be conducted by groups that include journalists, media owners and some-

Thailand finds \$29M of drugs, arrests 11 in just over a week

have seized drugs worth about \$29 million and arrested 11 people in recent days as narcotics case surge in the country. The drugs included amphetamine pills, marijuana, ketamine and ice seized in 11 unconnected cases since March 25. The haul displayed Tuesday at the Narcotics Suppression Division outside Bangkok was spread along a row of tables about 15 meters long (49 feet). The total was estimated to be worth 890 million baht (\$29 million), with the largest single haul being 700 kilograms (1,500 pounds) of ice, or crystal methamphetamine recovered March 28. They also seized nearly 1,800,000 pills of yaba, which is a local caffeine-methamphetamine mix. 1.380

kilograms (3,000 pounds) of marijuana, and smaller quantities of cocaine, ecstasy pills, ketamine and other drugs combinations. Thai police have dealt with more than 1,000 drug cases since October, compared to about 450 in the previous one-year period. The most recent was Monday, when officers arrested a Thai woman returning from Ethiopia with 50 containers of cocaine concealed inside her body. The 11 recent arrests include a Malaysian and a Tanzanian.

Gunmen kill 9 in separate attacks in Pakistan's Quetta

OUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen riding on motorcycles carried out two separate attacks in the Pakistani city of Quetta on Monday, killing five Muslims in one shooting and four members of a Christian family in the other, police said. Abdul Qadeer, a local police chief, said the attacks were apparently unrelated. The Islamic State group claimed the attack on the Christians in a statement carried by its Aamaq news agency. It was unclear who was behind the other attack. Earlier Monday, Pakistan's army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa confirmed death sentences for 10 convicted militants, including the killer of a well-known Sufi singer, according to a military statement. The military courts found the "terrorists" guilty of taking part in separate attacks that killed 62 people, it said. The trials are closed to the public, but defendants are allowed to hire lawyers. One of those whose sentence was confirmed was found guilty of a 2016 attack in Karachi that killed Amjad Sabri. He and his late father, Ghulam Farid Sabri, were renowned gawwali singers, a style of music rooted in Islamic mysticism.

Thai magazine editor in trouble over anti-pollution posting

BANGKOK (AP)—A magazine editor has apologized to a governor in northern Thailand after he threatened her with criminal charges for posting on Facebook a student's painting of ancient kings wearing pollution masks.

Citylife Chiang Mai magazine had sought to draw attention to the region's sometimes dangerously unhealthy air pollution caused by crop burning and traffic.

The magazine on Friday posted a letter signed by Chiang Mai Gov. Pavin Chamniprasart recommending police charge the publication with being disrespectful to the kings and endangering tourism. Editor Pim Kemasingki could be imprisoned up to five years if convicted under the Computer Crime Act, which has several broad provisions, including criminal penalties for undermining national security and entering false information into computer systems.

"To present the image of having a mask placed on the three kings is a blasphemous act, disrespectful, and affects the hearts of the people of Chiang Mai," said the letter, which stated that publishing the images violated the Computer Crime Act. "It also affects the image of Chiang Mai which would affect tourism and lead to unstable economics in the province of Chiang Mai," it said.

Pim said Monday she had sought only to raise awareness of the health issue and had called the governor personally to apologize.

The provincial government has been criticized for not being more active in addressing the seasonal haze.

The governor did not respond Monday to requests seeking comment. His secretary stated he was attending meetings all day about the smog.

The controversy also caused the magazine to cancel an antipollution rally it had planned for last Friday.

"Our intention was to create a positive gathering of concerned citizens and residents

to petition the government to give us correct and greater information about the annual air pollution and the dangers it poses to our health," Pim wrote in an online message. "Unfortunately, there are elements in society with unknown agendas who have used our well-intentioned event to create chaos and plant seeds of suspicion about our intentions.

"We have recently been warned by many members of the media, government and related organizations that our event may be hijacked by illintentioned people who wish to cause chaos," she wrote, adding that she regarded some of these warnings as threats.

The painting was made by a 12th grade high school student.

Pim said she appreciated the painting because she also paints herself. "I'm also an artist, I paint, and I saw this as a piece of art. I apologize to everyone if I didn't think it through properly, but I meant no harm'

times politicians.

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World

Egypt's election produces surprise runner-up: Invalid votes

(AP)—Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's victory in last week's election was never in doubt, but the vote produced a surprise runner-up-an unusually large number of invalid ballots, suggesting a possible protest vote against el-Sissi or the election itself.

Official figures released Monday by the election commission gave el-Sissi 97 percent of the vote, securing him a second, four-year term in office following an election in which he ran virtually unopposed. His sole challenger, Moussa Mustafa Moussa, a little-known politician who made no effort to challenge him, received 656,534 votes, or 2.92 percent.

Moussa's tally was outdone by the 1.76 million invalid ballots, which would have amounted to 7.27 percent of votes cast, a considerably higher percentage than in the last two presidential elections: 4.07 percent in 2014 and 3.1 percent in the 2012 runoff.

Critics denounced the latest election as a farce because a string of potentially serious challengers were either forced out of the race or arrested. Moussa stepped in the last minute to spare the government the embarrassment of a one-candidate election that would have resembled the referendums long held by the



presidential election, in Cairo, Egypt.

region's autocrats.

Authorities went to great lengths to encourage turnout, hoping to lend the vote credibility. In the end, turnout was 41.05 percent, down from 47.45 percent when el-Sissi won his first election in 2014.

It's impossible to know how many voters deliberately spoiled their ballots. But some may have bristled at the lack of competition, or the election commission's threat to impose

news agencies that more than 30,000 people have left Dou-

ma since Wednesday. The Army of Islam has refused to respond to media requests for comment. Syrian activists say the group has told them it is determined to remain in Douma. The group is estimated to command 10,000 fighters in the town, and possess a formidable arsenal of tanks and other heavy weaponry, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the civil war through a network

Observatory head Rami Abdurrahman said the Army of Islam is divided over whether to evacuate Douma, with hardliners demanding they stay and fight.

ing Douma on Monday were transporting wounded fighters as a first step in the evacuations. Bakkar, the media activist, said the evacuees were wounded civilians. Douma local council member Iyad Abdelaziz said the buses were for medical evacuations and

a fine on anyone who boycotted the vote, under a law that has been rarely enforced.

"I had made up my mind not to vote, but I went to the polls at the last minute when they threatened to make us pay 500 pounds (\$28) if we don't," said Mohammed Mus-

Cairo. "I invalidated my vote because it was not really an election. El-Sissi knew he was going to win before it began." Imad Hussein, the editor

tafa, an unemployed, 26-year-

old university graduate from

of the Al-Shorouk newspaper and an el-Sissi supporter, said the president's campaign should "quietly and thoroughly" study the significance of the spoiled ballots.

"Those invalidators have sent a message that must be read and answered. We can say that we now have in Egypt a party called the 'invalidators,' who receive more votes than the leaders of existing political parties."

Invalidating votes may have been seen as a relatively safe way to protest el-Sissi, who has waged a sweeping crackdown on dissent and banned all unauthorized demonstrations. A string of potentially serious candidates were arrested or withdrew from the race, citing intimidation. A coalition of eight Egyptian opposition parties and some 150 pro-democracy public figures had called for a boycott of the vote, calling it an "absurdity" befitting "old and crude dictatorships."

After the 2012 and 2014 elections, images circulated on social media showing deliberately spoiled ballots. One voter penciled in the words "My vote is for you, Batman," while another wrote in the name of a famous belly dancer. Another voter simply wrote, "I love you, Sara, very much." After this year's election, an image circulated of a write-in vote for Liverpool's Egyptian star striker Mohammed Salah, a hometown celebrity.

Syrian rebels begin evacuating last stronghold near Damascus

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian state media said Monday that the largest rebel group in the suburbs of Damascus has begun evacuating its last stronghold after seven years of war, but the rebels refused to say whether they had surrendered, and it was unclear who was on board a dozen buses seen leaving the town.

Residents trapped inside Douma expressed fear that further foot-dragging could provoke another major government offensive, like the one that killed an estimated 1,600 people across the eastern Ghouta suburbs in February and March.

"We don't know what our choices are, we don't know what's in store for us," said local media activist Haitham Bakkar.

Douma was one of the earliest hubs of the Arab Spring uprising against President Bashar Assad that swept through the country in 2011. Just 11 kilometers (7 miles) from the Old City of Damascus, it was part of the capital's Ghouta hinterland, once famed for its orchards and produce. The government responded to the

protests by putting Douma and other suburbs around Damascus under siege, bombing hospitals and residential areas, and blocking the entry of food and medical relief.

On Monday, more than 600 people evacuated the town on buses sent by the government and the Syrian Red Crescent to take them to Jarablus, a northern Syrian town controlled by Turkish troops and allied Syrian forces.

State media said those on board were fighters and family members belonging to the Army of Islam, the largest rebel group in eastern Ghouta. The Saudi-backed group, which has deep roots in the region, has held firm in recent weeks as virtually all the other insurgents of eastern Ghouta have reached deals to relocate to the rebel-held north.

The Russian military, which is allied with Assad's forces, said 1,146 rebels and their relatives have left Douma for the northern province of Idlib over the past 24 hours. Maj. Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko, of the Russian military's Reconciliation Center in Syria, said in remarks carried by Russian

of activists on the ground.

He said the buses leav-"humanitarian cases."

Argentine drought hits farmers hard, undermining economy

PERGAMINO, Argentina vestment plans. (AP)—Jorge Josifovich is silent and downcast as he walks under the pounding sun in one of Argentina's most fertile agricultural regions, staring at soy crops parched by the country's worst drought in years.

The drought, which began in November, has caused big losses, reduced expectations of economic growth and raised concerns among farmers, government officials and experts in the world's third-largest exporter of soybean and corn.

"It's dramatic," said Josifovich, a farmer and agricultural engineer who provides advice to growers. He picked up soy seeds from a plant that stands at about half its normal height.

"Not only is there the physical loss of grain yield, but there's also the loss of quality, which lowers the product's final price."

That's a blow to Argentina, where farming is the economy's main engine, and high or low prices for soy and other commodities can either help sustain or bust government in-

President Mauricio Macri was counting on a near-record soy crop this year to boost economic growth to 3.5 percent in 2018. Instead, what is expected to be the poorest harvest in at least a decade has already cut growth forecasts by up to a percentage point.

While Macri struggles to reduce the country's high fiscal deficit and tame inflation, Argentines continue to lose purchasing power and many are growing increasingly frustrated with rises in fuel and transportation costs.

The value of grain exports this year could be cut by up to \$3.4 billion as a result of the drought, according to recent estimates by the Buenos Aires Grains Exchange. But the impact could be even more bruising if related industries are taken into account.

"This situation is frustrating because it impedes the government from reaching its expected growth, and it hits other sectors," said Fausto Spotorno, an economic analyst at Orlando Ferreres

& Asociados, a Buenos Aires-based consulting firm.

Argentina's famed meat and dairy industries, which depend on corn and soymeal for animal feed, are facing more than \$600 million in losses, according to the exchange. The drought has also hurt the poultry and pork sectors as well as the silos that store grain and the trucking and shipping companies that transport it.

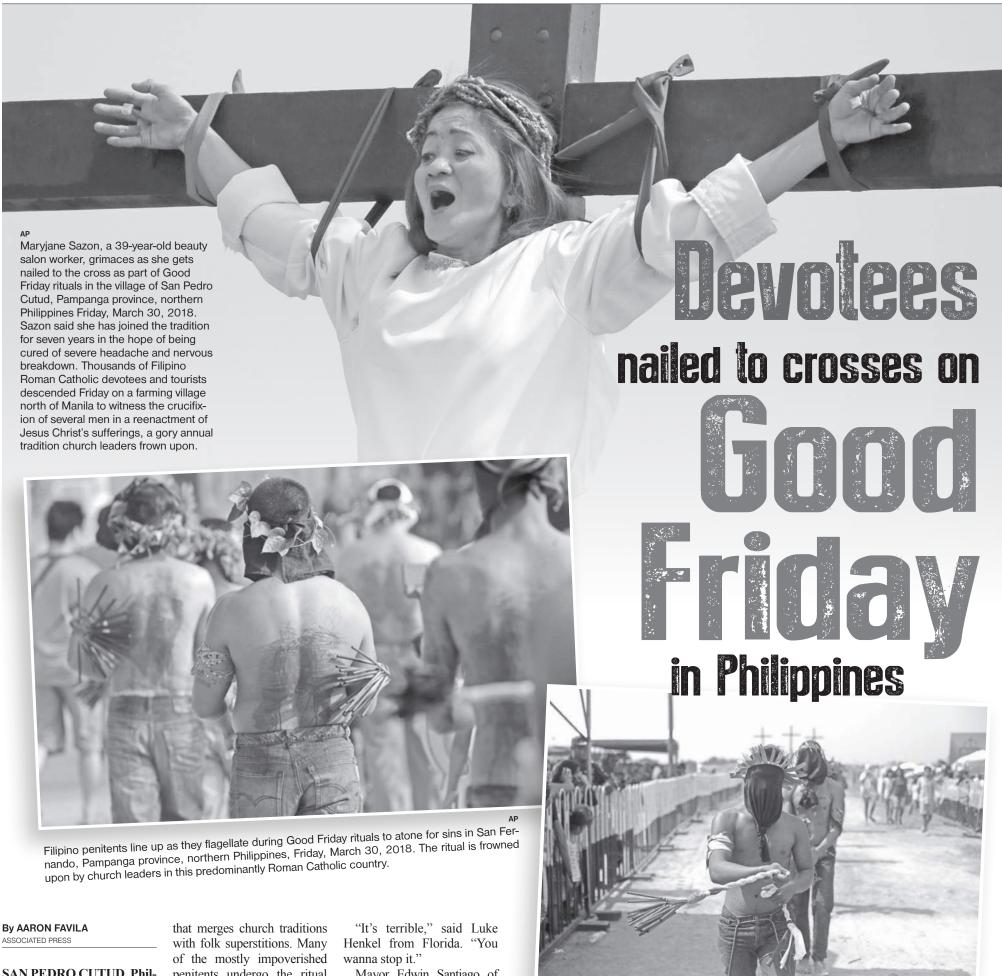
"You'll have less beef and a problem with (a rise) in prices," Ezequiel de Freijo, chief economist at the Argentine Rural Society, said about the outlook for next year

He said the consumption of Argentine diesel fuel will also be reduced by 2.5 percent in 2018. And about a million fewer trucks will be used to transport grain in 2018 compared to last year because of the drought. That translates into an estimated \$1.1 billion in losses.

Soy makes up more than a third of all Argentine exports, and Argentina is the world's top supplier of soy oil and meal.

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Focus



SAN PEDRO CUTUD, Phil**ippines** (AP)—Seven Filipino Roman Catholic devotees, including a woman, were nailed to wooden crosses in a Good Friday reenactment of Jesus Christ's suffering that was watched by thousands of spectators but frowned upon by church leaders.

Three devotees wearing crowns of twigs were nailed to crosses by villagers dressed as Roman centurions on a dusty hill in San Pedro Cutud village, and four others were nailed to crosses in nearby farming villages in San Fernando city north of Manila, tourism officer Ching Pangilinan said.

The spectacle reflects a unique brand of Catholicism penitents undergo the ritual to atone for sins, pray for the sick or for a better life, or give thanks for what they believe were God-given miracles.

The Lenten rituals are frowned upon by church leaders in the Philippines, Asia's largest Roman Catholic nation, especially if the events are used to boost tourism and business. The reenactments of the crucifixion, however, have persisted and become a tourist attraction in the largely unknown villages in Pampanga province, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of the capital.

While the crucifixions have become a tradition for villagers, they still leave many foreign tourists bewildered.

Mayor Edwin Santiago of San Fernando, where San Pedro Cutud lies, said more than 400 police officers were deployed and first-aid stations set up to look after the huge crowds.

"We provide assistance because we can't stop the influx of tourists." Pangilinan said. "We don't promote it as a festival but it's rather a show of respect to a local tradition."

Villagers used the crowddrawing events to peddle food, water, fans, umbrellas and souvenirs and rent out parking slots and toilets. A leading cellphone company provided tents for shade with its name embossed on them.

Archbishop Socrates Villegas said it's best for Catholics to mark Lent with prayers and acts of love and charity.

"Instead of spilling your blood on the streets, why not walk into a Red Cross office and donate blood? Choose to share life. Share your blood," Villegas said in remarks posted on a Catholic church website.

Friday's reenactment of Christ's crucifixion was the 32nd for Ruben Enaje, a 57-year-old sign painter who

began his yearly rite after surviving a fall from a building. He plans to stop when he turns 60.

Filipino penitents flagellate during Good Friday rituals to atone for sins on March 30, 2018 in Pampanga province, northern Philippines. Thousands of Filipino Roman Catholic devo-

tees and tourists descended Friday on a farming village north of Manila to witness the cru-

cifixion of several men in a reenactment of Jesus Christ's sufferings, a gory annual tradition

Maryjane Sazon, a 39-yearold beauty salon worker, said she joined the reenactments seven years ago in the hope of being cured of severe headaches and a nervous breakdown. Her act Friday was dedicated to her sick sister.

Prior to the cross nailings, dozens of male penitents several kilometers

(miles) along village streets while beating their bare backs with sharp bamboo sticks and pieces of wood. Some had their backs cut to keep them bloody.

Foreigners have been banned from taking part since an Australian comic was nailed to a cross under a false name a few years ago near Pampanga. Authorities also believe that a Japanese man was nailed to cross as part of a porn film in 1996.

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Overdrive

By PHOEBE WALL HOWARD

DETROIT FREE PRESS

ETROIT—Pickup enthusiasts like to talk about towing capacity. Ford is counting on it, in mid-March publicly hitching the entire

115-year-old automaker to its truck franchise that's led by the best-selling F-150, hoping to haul the company's stock and image out of the muck where it has been spinning its wheels for months.

It's a good idea, Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas had coincidentally argued in a note to investors, asserting that the F-Series franchise is actually more valuable than the company as a whole.

Ford recently announced that 86 percent of its North American production by 2020 would be trucks and SUVs, up from 70 percent now. It brought in every major journalist and industry analyst who would come to Dearborn to listen to corporate brass tout the plan. CEO Jim Hackett and his top lieutenants for North America lifted the covers off SUVs scheduled for release in the next 24 months, on the condition that the news media not reveal design details.

"Car companies only do this when they're in trouble," said John McElroy, host of "Autoline" and a longtime industry observer. "The stock price has gone nowhere. And Wall Street has been heavily critical of Ford for being in a real product drought."

While Ford's balance sheet is a fortress with ample resources, stalled spending on future products has dulled enthusiasm.

"Ford has not presented a narrative that has convinced anybody that it's going to be growing its earnings and profits in the future," McElroy said. "Now, Ford has sent a signal to Wall Street that they're essentially going to be become a truck company."

Morgan Stanley's Jonas had argued in his note the day before that were the F-Series a company on its own, it would be worth \$16 a share, rather than the \$11-\$12 range where Ford stock has generally hovered for a year and a half.

"Ford's out-of-favor status has brought valuation to where the F-150 may be worth" more than 150 percent of the com-

> sell about two F-Series pickup trucks every minute," he said.

Ford hopes F-150 pickup, new trucks can pull automaker out of rut

pany's enterprise value, wrote had a plan in place, said Mi-Jonas, whose broader point was that Ford is underappreciated on Wall Street.

He gave the company a rare "double upgrade" and set the share target price at \$15, arguing that Ford's truck leadership positions it well for expected increases in U.S. infrastructure spending.

Still, Ford closed at \$10.75 a share on Thursday.

As much revenue as Face-

Jonas' point about Ford trucks is solid. Ford gets as much revenue from its beloved F-Series brand as the social media behemoth Facebook earned in 2017 — about \$41 billion. Ford officials often point out the trucks, which have led all U.S. auto sales for 36 years, top sales of Coke and Nike.

"The revenue of what's generated at the Kentucky Truck Plant alone would be a Fortune 500 company," Joe Hinrichs, president of global operations at Ford, noted on a tour of that factory last month.

Despite this valuable franchise and a strong consumer shift to trucks, it's as if Ford lately is the Rodney Dangerfield of domestic automakers. It's a sharp contrast with the years after the Great Recession, when the company got credit for avoiding bankruptcy and for its discipline under former CEO Alan Mulally.

Why can't the company persuade investors that things are on track?

"We're not really seeing a lot of new and different,' Stephanie Brinley, senior analyst for IHS Markit, said.

Ford's recent public-

chelle Krebs, executive analyst at Autotrader.

"What Ford did — pull back the curtain on future products — was out of character for the automaker but it was necessary," she said. "Now, Ford must successfully execute its plan.'

Analysts were surprised to hear the extent to which Ford plans to shift production to trucks and SUVs over the next 24 months, including commercial heavy duty trucks.

While Ford is touting its commitment to hybrids, analysts dismissed the promises as a need to accommodate mandates in China and California just to be competitive.

When discussing trucks. which are more efficient than times past but will still cost more to fuel when gas prices inevitably spike, Ford "is taking out an insurance policy against potentially higher fuel prices by emphasizing less dependence on gasoline" and more use of electrification, Krebs notes.

Ford even predicted it would overtake Toyota as the top hybrid vehicle producer.

"The plan, emphasizing SUVs and trucks, plays to Ford's strength," Krebs said. "The bigger bet is the hybrids. They have not been selling well. Whether Ford can be successful with hybrids remains to be seen."

Leadership questions Skepticism is rampant.

"It's a bold move to pull back on passenger cars almost completely, but the good news is that the consumer shift to SUVs shows no signs of slowing down," said Jeremy Acevedo, industry analysis manager at Edmunds. "However, this trend is far from a secret, and by the time 2020 rolls around, Ford's new vehicles will have a lot of stiff competition. Even though SUV sales are robust, the market is starting to contract, and when dealer lots are inundated with SUVs of every size, shape and brand, it's going to take a lot to stand out."

A number of analysts continue to say slow product development is a leadership issue.

"The big puzzle is, here they've got Jim Hackett as the CEO. He has been there since, what, May 2017? You don't see much difference at the company. Compare him with Alan Mulally," McElroy said. "You saw huge changes in a similar time frame."

Everyone seems to be wondering about the future of oncepopular models, including the Taurus, Fiesta and Flex. Ford isn't providing details yet.

"There are so many unknowns right now that it is still difficult to get overly excited about new product," said Dave Sullivan, manager of product analysis at AutoPacific, Inc.

A trade showdown with China or changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement would have a detrimental impact on Ford's product plans, he said.

"The Focus is coming from China. The EcoSport from India. The Transit Connect from Spain. The Edge from Canada. The Fusion and MKZ from Mexico. A new Taurus could also come from China." Sullivan said. "With the changes to steel and aluminum tariffs, the president has thrown a wrench into a

very sensitive supply chain with no time to react. Who's to say we don't see similar changes to finished vehicles coming from outside of the U.S.?"

More is at stake for Ford than just new product.

"The unknown is what is spooking investors," Sullivan

In the near term, the F-Series will continue to be the bread and butter of Ford.

"The F-150 will fund the future," Krebs said, noting gains in assisted driving and connectivity technology.

Meanwhile, the Ford team remains hopeful that Wall Street will come around.

"We won't comment on the company's valuation, but we can say that Ford has a solid balance sheet, with over \$35 billion of liquidity, which provides financial flexibility," said Ford spokesman Brad Carroll. "We continue our intense focus on improving the operational fitness of the business to deliver stronger results while building toward our vision of the future. We're confident that as these fitness actions take hold, the market will recognize our progress."

Ford's F-series made more money than Facebook in 2017

By PHOEBE WALL HOWARD

DETROIT FREE PRESS

DETROIT — Why is Ford Motor Co. betting its future on trucks?

You might call it a smackdown between the F-150 and Nike Air Jordan XXXII.

Ford executives like to point out lately consumers spent \$41.25 billion on F-Series trucks in North America in 2017. Incredibly, the trucks have generated more revenue than:

- Facebook
- Coca-Cola
- Nike

■ American Airlines

- Best Buy
- Merck pharmaceuticals
- Allstate ■ Rite Aid
- Macy's
- McDonald's

In fact, \$41 billion exceeds the gross domestic product output of the countries of Jordan, Bolivia and Iceland among many others.

Erich Merkle, U.S. sales analyst for Ford, indicated few people realize just how big the truck franchise really is.

"On average, we'll sell about two F-Series pickup trucks every minute," he said. "By the time you've finished this article now, we've sold another one." Ford sold 896,764 F-Series

trucks in 2017, up 9 percent over the previous year.

"So the industry was off slightly from record sales in 2016, but F-Series bucked the trend," Merkle said. "This was our 41st straight year as America's bestselling pickup truck."

In recent months, F stock has moved little. Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas generated news when he suggested the trucks might be more valuable than the whole 115-year-old company.

A line of one year's sales of F-Series trucks could stretch from Seattle to Miami, said Ford spokesman



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Life & Style

Kathy Griffin warns that her nightmare 'can happen to you'

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Kathy Griffin says she hopes to make her U.S. comeback by laughing about the disturbing photograph that got her in hot water with the feds and almost killed her career. But she also has this warning amid the jokes: "If it happened to me it can happen to you."

Griffin is embarking this summer on a North American tour that kicks off a year after she was widely condemned for posing for a picture in which she gripped a bloodied rendering of President Donald Trump's head. Ten months on, she is unbowed.

"I'm the same girl I've always been - just a hardworking, obnoxious, red-haired comedy girl. The whole time I've been consistent in just trying to make you laugh," she told The Associated Press. "Am I shocking sometimes? For sure. Do I go too far? I hope so. That's my job."

The "Suddenly Susan" and "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List" star lost income, received death threats, was denounced by Trump, landed on an Interpol criminal list and was afraid to leave her home. She said she was under investigation by the Department of Justice for two months.

"It shouldn't happen to an American citizen," she said. Griffin said she understands if people don't like the photo, but it is protected speech. "If there's one amendment I'm familiar with it's the First Amendment. I know it back and forth and it's how I make my living."

The comedian's life changed radically last May when the image came out: "I really never thought that photo would take off at all. Like I've been doing 'shocking' things my whole career." She called the fallout "faux-outrage."

She said there were a few missteps, including a hastily put-together apology video followed by a "disastrous" press conference with attorney Lisa Bloom in which she called Trump a "bully" and only worsened the still-spiraling disaster.

"My social media was so flooded that I really thought, 'OK, I am the most reviled person in the world right now," she said. "It's been a long time to sort of process that and figure out what's real and what isn't." She added: "I really do believe if it happened to me it can happen to you."

During those dark days, Griffin said many colleagues like Anderson Cooper turned away but one celebrity reached out - Jim Carrey, someone she didn't know that well. He advised her to find the comedy in her absurd situation.



"It was really meaningful to me that he called," she said. "Jim's advice was right on, which is, 'Lean into this topic and you'll find the comedy.' And luckily I found a lot of comedy while hibernating."

Some funny stuff inadvertently came from her mom, who said she was watching TV with the sound off and believed her daughter had joined ISIS. "I don't think they're recruiting 57-year-old Irish-American comedians," Griffin cracked. "I don't think I would do very well in the training camps. I've seen those videos."

Unable to tour in the United

In this March 22, 2018 photo, comedian Kathy Griffin poses for a portrait in Los Angeles to promote her upcoming "The Laugh Your Head Off World Tour.

States, Griffin went overseas, performing in 23 cities in 15 countries. This summer she plans to tour in Mexico, Canada and the United States, including stops in San Francisco, Seattle, Boston, Chicago and a sold-out gig at Carnegie Hall in New York. The tour name alone is defiant—"The Laugh Your Head Off World Tour."

"I'm trying to sort of get people to forgive me and get people to come back to me or give me a chance. And it's interesting. It's really like I'm starting all over again," she said.

Griffin, who said many people still send her Bibles, acknowledges there are some places in America where she will never be welcomed again and that some TV shows won't ever invite her back. "I still haven't won over the entire cast of 'The View," she joked.

The initial revulsion and aggressive reaction to the photos has softened lately, especially in the wake of the #MeToo and Time's Up movements spotlighting sexism and misogyny in the entertainment industry. But Griffin said those movements haven't reached out to her and she hasn't felt included.

"I know I've been a silence breaker long before that phrase and I'm proud of that," she said. "I'm cheering those women on and I'm with them, whether they know it or not."

She compared her experience to that of Eartha Kitt, who was blacklisted after raising concerns about the Vietnam War. Some have suggested Griffin's situation was similar to that of the Dixie Chicks, who denounced the Iraq war, but Griffin doesn't buy that.

"They had the entire entertainment community wrap their arms around them, put them on the cover of Time, put them on the cover of Entertainment Weekly. And my situation was the opposite. I had everyone turning on me."

One of the ways Griffin has released stress has been as the new owner of two rescue puppies—Elliot and Olivia, named after the lead characters on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

The theatrical production,

Tracy Morgan, Tiffany Haddish bring chemistry to 'Last O.G.'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—TBS' "The Last O.G.," starring Tracy Morgan as a man just out of prison and learning his way around a changed world, also holds a lesson in comedy chemistry.

Morgan's Tray has it with "Girls Trip" star Tiffany Haddish, who plays the ex-flame who built a successful life and marriage instead of waiting out his 15-year sentence for dealing drugs.

There are sparks as well when Tray tries to mentor his cousin, Bobby, played with freewheeling glee by Allen Maldonado, or trades coarse one-liners with Cedric the Entertainer as Mullins, a halfway house manager.

Morgan, who had a difficult recovery from injuries suffered in a 2014 highway crash, generously shares "The Last O.G." (as in "original gangsta") as a showcase for all, not one. The TBS comedy debuts 10:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday.

"Maybe I'm just a better man now since the accident," the former "Saturday Night Live" player said during a Television Critics Association Q&A. "I know it ain't about



Cedric the Entertainer, left, and Tracy Morgan attend the premiere of "The Last O.G." at The William Vale on Thursday, March 29, 2018, in New York.

me. It's bigger than me. I thank God for that."

Created by Jordan Peele, the Oscar-winning "Get Out" filmmaker, and John Carcieri ("Eastbound & Down"), "The Last O.G." gives Morgan room to play the goofy bombast he perfected in "30 Rock" and the yearning of a man des-

perate for another chance.

(There are expletives, bleeped as expected on basic cable, but also plenty of raunchy references to be heard, especially in the back-and-forth between Tray and Mullins.)

The returning Tray finds his Brooklyn neighborhood is gentrified, his cronies are gone or turned into legit businessmen and his adored Shay (Haddish) is living the affluent dream with nice-guy husband Josh (Ryan Gaul) and teenage twins—which, doing the math, Tray figures were fathered by him.

Tray doesn't want to claim the title of dad or upend Shay's family, Morgan said. But he does want to be part of a parental trio and have a role in the lives of Amira (Taylor Mosby) and Shazad (Dante Hoagland).

"I could have come home and been a problem in her (Shay's) life, but then I had to look at (her husband) and I had to look at my kids," he said. "And I see they were in good hands. So that's what we also want to get across in the show, that it's about the babies."

Apollo crowd cheers for Coates' 'Between the World And Me'

NEW YORK (AP)—The Apollo Theater audience cheered and cheered for Ta-Nehisi Coates, and the readers of "Between the World and Me."

A capacity crowd at the famed New York City venue was on hand Monday night for a stage recital of Coates' prize-winning book, one met throughout with applause and calls of approval.

Coates appeared unannounced and read briefly at the end of the roughly 100-minute event, following eight scheduled readers who included Oscar-nominated actress Angela Bassett, the rappers Common and Black Thought and Emmy-winning "Scandal" actor Joe Morton The others were librettist Marc Bamuthi Joseph and stage actors Michelle Wilson, Greg Alvarez Reid and Pauletta Pearson Washington.

"Between the World and Me," published in 2015, is a letter from Coates to his son Samori and a hybrid of memoir, history, advice and condemnation of police violence against blacks. Coates won the National Book Award for the best-seller, which remains widely read and discussed.

directed by Kamilah Forbes and adapted from the book by Lauren A. Whitehead and Talvin Wilks, blended words, music and visual imagery, from pictures of Malcolm X to streaks of rain on glass. The readers sometimes stood, sometimes sat, sometimes read alone, or in pairs, or all together. A jazz trio on the upper stage played for much of the show, led by pianist Jason Moran, who composed the soundtrack for the film "Selma." They opened with light, rolling rhythms, and turned harder as the tragedies in "Between the World And Me" accumulated. (Forbes and Coates both attended Howard University, the alma mater of their mutual friend Prince Jones, whose murder by a police officer is a centerpiece of the book). Midway through the show. Common and Black Thought rapped together, with Common updating his "Black America Again" to add a reference to Stephon Clark, the unarmed black man shot and killed by police in Sacramento, California.

"Here we go, here, here we go again," he rapped.

1 juror selected, key rulings coming in Bill Cosby retrial

NORRISTOWN,

(AP)—One juror has been picked and key rulings are on the way in Bill Cosby's sexual assault retrial.

Judge Steven O'Neill said he will reveal his decisions on lingering issues in the case before jury selection resumes on Tuesday in suburban Philadelphia.

O'Neill is expected to rule if Cosby's lawyers can call a witness who says accuser Andrea Constand talked about framing a celebrity before she went to police in 2005 with allegations the comedian drugged and molested her.

Marguerite Jackson's testimony is crucial to the defense's plan to portray Constand as a greedy liar. O'Neill also could boost the defense's case if he rules that jurors can hear how much Cosby paid Constand in a 2006 civil settlement.

Just one juror was seated as jury selection began on Monday. Things moved at a far slower pace than on the opening day of Cosby's first trial last spring, when five jurors



were selected.

The young man picked as a retrial juror said he did not know anything about Cosby's case.

He was an outlier among the 120 suburban Philadelphia residents summoned as potential jurors in the case.

Three-quarters of them were sent home for cause - the majority because they said they already have formed an opinion about Cosby's guilt or innocence.

That leaves just 28 people invited back for individual questioning on Tuesday as prosecutors and Cosby's lawyers work to fill 17 remaining jury spots. Another group of 120 potential jurors also is being brought in, in case they do not make the cut.

O'Neill said the jury will be sequestered at a hotel and warned that the retrial could last about a month.

Cosby has pleaded not guilty to charges he drugged and sexually molested Constand, a Temple University women's basketball administrator, at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. He says

Bill Cosby leaves his sexual assault trial at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Monday, April 2, 2018, in Norristown, Pa.

the encounter was consensual.

The former TV star once revered as "America's Dad" for his family sitcom "The Cosby Show" wore a dark suit with a trench coat draped across his legs and a thin wooden cane in his hand as O'Neill questioned potential jurors.

Picking a jury has proven particularly tough after the #MeToo movement started toppling famous men in rapid succession months after Cosby's first trial ended in a deadlock.

All but one of the people in the initial group of potential jurors said they were aware of the #MeToo movement or the allegations it spurred against powerful entertainment figures. The lone person who claimed ignorance on #MeToo was not invited back.

Veteran lawyers and jury consultants say #MeToo could cut both ways for Cosby, making some potential jurors more hostile and others more likely to think men are being unfairly accused.

Channing Tatum, wife Jenna Dewan Tatum announce split

NEW YORK (AP)—Channing Tatum and his wife Jenna Dewan Tatum say they have decided to "lovingly separate as a couple" after nearly nine years of marriage.

The couple broke the news in a joint Twitter post on Monday night, saying there are no salacious details behind the split. They say they are best friends who have decided their relationship has run its course.

The two met on the set of the 2006 dance movie "Step Up" and married in 2009. They have a 4-year-old daughter together.

Tatum has starred in box office hits like "Magic Mike" and "21 Jump Street."



Taraji P. Henson finally gets her 'Fatal Attraction' role

NEW YORK (AP)—Tyler Perry says he knew if he was going to have Taraji P. Henson star in his latest film, he would have to work fast.

The writer-director filmed "Tyler Perry's Acrimony," his third collaboration with the actress, in a mere eight days.

Perry said it was easier to film the revenge thriller around Henson's "Empire" shooting schedule because she comes in prepared for a role, and she's especially good at playing bad characters.

"She's a director's dream," he said at the film's premiere earlier this week. "She knows exactly what you want. She knows exactly where

The actress plays a woman who becomes unhinged after being scorned by her ex-husband.

The film, which opens Friday, repre- Henson sented a new chal-

lenge for both Perry and Hen-

Henson said she was enticed to the project by Perry's pitch that it would be her chance to play a character type she'd wanted to play for years.

"We all saw 'Fatal Attraction,' right? And as a young actor with dreams, that was

always a character I wanted to play," Henson said. "Whenever you see a great actor portray a role, it's always on the bucket list to actors. I know for me it was, so that's the thing

that made me sign

on because when he called he said this is your Glenn Close in 'Fatal Attraction' moment. And I was like, 'I'm down."

The film represented the opportunity for Perry to return to a genre he became fascinated with while filming his role in "Gone Girl," director David Fincher's adaptation of the novel.

"After doing 'Gone Girl,' I wanted to do a thriller. I wanted to see and show what I learned on that film, and what just pretty much felt like I was in school," he said.

One thing Perry didn't emulate was Fincher's meticulous style that features multiple takes of scenes. He said his production was faster because there were fewer people making decisions.

'When it's just me making the decision and choices, it cuts down a lot of the time. So we moved really fast. I didn't have a whole lot of time with Taraji because she was shooting 'Empire,' so we had to do it quickly."

In this Monday, Nov. 6, 2017, file photo, Channing Tatum, left, executive producer of the HBO documentary film "War Dog: A Soldier's Best Friend," poses with his wife, actress Jenna Dewan Tatum, at the premiere of the film at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles.

Marriage threatened by wife's onlune relationship with ex

EAR ABBY: My wife of 20 years has been electronically unfaithful. There have been covert telephone calls and late-night text messages to a boyfriend from long ago. He's divorced and found her on Facebook, telling her he needed "advice on dating."

She admits to the phone calls and messages and nothing more. I believe her. They haven't met—just these covert exchanges, which are frequent and sometimes lengthy, over the course of several months. The "whys" behind her behavior are not important. We know our marriage is damaged, and we will work on that. She says she knows she was wrong to let it go on as long as it did, and further communication will stop. Should it include unfriending him on Facebook? I'm perplexed by the new paradigm of relationships.

COVERT EXCHANGES IN THE SOUTH

DEAR COVERT: I disagree that the reasons that led to your wife's behavior aren't important. I hope you two will work out your disconnect with licensed professional help, because it will make the process faster. As to whether she should unfriend her old boyfriend on Facebook, the answer is an unequivocal "yes."

DEAR ABBY: I tutor a 16-year-old boy. His family moved

to our city five months ago. They live in a crowded apartment with other relatives. One day, he told me a 20-year-old girl was obsessed with him, and he didn't like her that much. I told him it was unusual and said it was a good thing he had moved.

A month later she showed up, uninvited, to visit him. I think she came here to get pregnant, which she did. Her family now expects him to move back to Oklahoma, quit school and work to support the family. He's a smart kid with the potential to do well in college. His father is dead, the mother is clueless, and I am concerned about this boy. The girl's father and brother are in prison. How can I advise him?

CARING TUTOR IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TUTOR: Your student is a minor. The "girl" is an adult. The young man should not move ANYwhere without first insisting that a paternity test be taken to be certain he is the father of the child she's expecting if she is, indeed, pregnant. Because of the difference in their ages, she may be guilty of statutory rape, and he may be a victim.

DEAR ABBY: After decades of sucking it up, should I send a letter to the individuals who bullied me incessantly and made my life a living hell in high school? Should I let them know all

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



has not been forgiven or forgotten?

FORMER VICTIM IN MONTANA

DEAR FORMER VICTIM: No. Why would you want more contact with the cruel and thoughtless individuals who made you miserable? Live your life fully and happily in the present and don't look back. THAT is the best revenge.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

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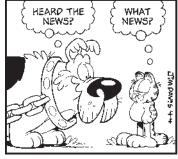
By Jim Davis

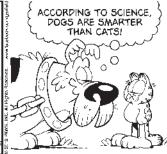














Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy





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Solution time: 23 mins. composer 37 Number-39 Photos of 41 Rich cake

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King.

Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Downey Jr., 53; David Cross, 54; Christine Lahti, 68; Craig T. Nelson, 74.

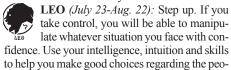
Happy Birthday: Before something goes wrong, make adjustments to the way you do things. Take care of personal finances, legal or medical matters, and situations that can affect the way you earn your living. It's important to keep up with current economic trends and technology in order to protect against loss. Being informed as well as diplomatic will be your ticket to success. Your numbers are 9, 14, 22, 24, 28, 37, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your intuition will not let you down. However, your ability to keep the peace will. Avoid an altercation with someone who can affect your reputation or who you work with. Finding a solution will make you the hero instead of the villain.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When you should be keeping personal matters a secret, someone will attempt to charm you into opening up. Don't offer information regarding your finances, medical history or any passwords that could leave you compromised. Concentrate

on health and physical improvements. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Emotions will surface when dealing with people vou are indebted to or vice versa. Trying to sort through the past in order to bring matters up to date will turn out to be more difficult and

invasive than anticipated. ••• CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional situations will fester. Look for a reasonable way to deal with people without letting your temper take over. Initiating diplomacy will impress someone who can help you excel. A kind gesture and a firm attitude are your best defenses.



ple you let into your inner circle. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you make changes at home, don't expect everyone to like what you do. Emotional deception will

filter into conversations when asking for a second opinion. Put yourself in someone else's shoes before you make a decision that will affect others. 😂

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pay close attention to your relationships. Show concern and empathy for others, and offer unique solutions. Listen attentively, but don't take on responsibilities that will leave you too stretched to do a good job. Offer suggestions, not hands-on help. OOOO

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Selfrealization and being honest about who vou are, what you can do and what you want will come to mind. Take a long, hard look at your options and make choices based on what makes the most sense.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Avoiding a situation that needs to be addressed doesn't mean it will go away on its own. Take the initiative to start a conversation that will help solve any issues that are pending or bothering you or someone you love. **QQQ**

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

Consider volunteering for something or joining an organization that is working toward changes you want to see enforced. Your input will be appreciated if you offer suggestions, but when it comes to physical contributions, only promise to do what's feasible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen

and observe what others are saying or offering, but when it comes down to making a decision or taking part, you are best to be reserved about what you are willing to do or offer

in return. OOOO PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Know what you are up against before you take on a cause or responsibility that can lead to emotional stress. Ask questions and consider who and what are involved before making a commitment.

Emotional deception will turn out to be costly. Birthday Baby: You are independent, competitive and aggressive. You are astute and persistent.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	8	9	7					
			9	8	6	3	7	
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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer									
7	1	9	3	2	8	5	4	6	
5	3	8	9	6	4	7	2	1	
4	6	2	5	1	7	8	9	3	
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Difficity Level & & 407									

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Wonderword OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

M.L.K. ASSASSINATED 50 YEARS AGO TODAY Solution: 11 letters TENNESSEE M S ® O J I A O C ① E D I R T S I T P A B DEDOSTJOSEPHYCN EGHETAAVLRLGHIE VALYETEOAAPITRN MAORRRYROCRAOI LAEFOTAALNB KDCALBMNGMRIRAS ENPLIOYEEVELU R A EDHADAGTCIBEG PATAMELTICAAU WESNITISXFNNLHA ERUTEPMURTROGCT NONVIOLENCEEMIS M C H R I S T I N E B R D M D

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER EVEN AS USCIS SETS 2017 CW-1 CAP AT 12,995 needs to tap available W CUC: Gulick, DHS ignoring Trice on CW-1 cap 'mind'



Solid start hands Red Sox win against Marlins



ton Red Sox are pitching, Derek Jeter, Jorge Posada and David Ortiz might not be able to hit them.

The All-Star trio sat together in the Miami Marlins owners box Monday night as Brian Johnson gave the Red Sox their fifth solid start in five games, allowing one run in six innings in a 7-3 victory.

All five Boston starters have allowed less than two runs, a franchise first to begin a season.

"It's what we expected," manager Alex Cora said. "We know how special they can be."

Hanley Ramirez and Mookie Betts each hit his first home run of the season for the Red Sox, who doubled their season total. They scored 10 runs in their first four games but are 4-1 because they've allowed only 12 runs.

The stingy pitching has come with three starters on the disabled list, including Drew Pomeranz, a 17-game winner in 2017.

Johnson (1-0) gave up rookie Brian Anderson's first career homer but stranded six runners. Boston starters have allowed three earned runs in 30 innings with 28 strikeouts.

"Everyone feeds off each other," Johnson said. "You see one guy go out there and do well, and you want to do repeat that."

Astros 6, Orioles 1

In Houston, Charlie Morton pitched six scoreless innings, Marwin Gonzalez homered and the Houston Astros unveiled their World Series banner before defeating the Baltimore Orioles.

Morton (1-0) allowed three hits and struck out six. The right-hander picked up where he left off after getting the final 12 outs in Game 7 against the Dodgers to help secure Houston's first championship.

Nationals 8, Braves 1



three-run homer, helping the Nationals to the first 4-0 start in their Washington history.

Harper's second-inning shot off Sean Newcomb (0-1) gave the Nationals a 5-0 lead. He also walked four times and scored three runs.

Washington's Tanner Roark (1-0) pitched seven innings of one-run ball.

Tigers 6, Twins 1

In Detroit, Francisco Liriano pitched into the seventh inning and Victor Martinez drove in three runs to hand Ron Gardenhire his first win with the Tigers.

Gardenhire won 1,068 games as Minnesota's manager from 2002-14. This is his first year at the helm in Detroit.

The temperature was in the mid-30s at Comerica Park for a matchup between the last two winless teams in the American League.

Blue Jays 4, White Sox 2

Josh Donaldson and Aledmys Diaz connected, powering Toronto to its third straight victory.

All six runs in the game came on homers.

Welington Castillo went deep twice for the White Sox for his sixth career multihomer game and third straight against Toronto. Castillo hit five home runs against the Blue Jays in 2017

Pirates 5, Twins 4

In Pittsburgh, Colin Moran hit a first-inning grand slam in his debut at PNC Park, Jameson Taillon tied a career high with nine strikeouts and Pittsburgh held on for the win in its home opener.

Moran, part of a trade that sent Gerrit Cole to Houston in January, sent a full-count fastball from Lance Lynn into the seats above the Clemente Wall in right field to stake the Pirates to an early lead they nursed to just their third 4-0 start in 35 years.

Cardinals 8, Brewers 4

In Atlanta, Bryce Harper hit a In Toronto, Russell Martin, In Milwaukee, pitcher Miles

Mikolas hit a home run and got the win in his return from a three-year stint in Japan, and the Cardinals spoiled the Brewers' home opener.

St. Louis shortstop Paul De-Jong connected for the second straight game, hitting his third homer this season. Milwaukee had opened the season with a three-game sweep at San Diego.

Reds 1, Cubs O

In Cincinnati, rookie Tyler Mahle pitched one-hit ball for six innings, Raisel Iglesias struck out Anthony Rizzo with the bases loaded to end the eighth, and the Reds edged the Cubs for their first win of the season.

Eugenio Suarez tripled in the fourth and scored on Adam Duvall's groundout for the game's only run.

Cincinnati was swept at home by Washington, falling to 0-3 for the first time since 2003.

Athletics 3, Rangers 1

In Oakland, Jed Lowrie hit a two-out, two-run double in the Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Brian Johnson throws in the first inning during a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Monday, April 2, 2018, in Miami.

for Oakland. The A's had lost three straight since beating the Angels on opening day.

Indians 6, Angels 0

In Anaheim, Edwin Encarnacion hit the second inside-thepark home run of his career, and Tyler Naquin and Yonder Alonso cleared the fences to help Cleveland ruin Los Angeles' home opener and snap its three-game win streak.

Mike Clevinger (1-0), a former Angels farmhand, scattered four hits and struck out five in 5 1/3 innings in his season debut.

Rockies 7, Padres 4

In San Diego, Ian Desmond, Charlie Blackmon and DJ LeMahieu homered to power Colorado past winless San Diego.

Chad Bettis (1-0) pitched five effective innings and Desmond drove in three runs as the Rockies improved to 2-2.

Monday roars that sound like Sunday when Woods arrives

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—The than capable of winning a roar sounded like Sunday at Augusta National.

spoiled Bartolo Colon's debut

Matt Chapman homered for

the second time in two days

with Texas.

This was Monday MASTERS afternoon, and it was so sudden and thunderous that it reached the clubhouse. It was loud enough to startle spectators who wondered what they had missed. They had a pretty good idea who it was.

Tiger Woods is back at the Masters.

Woods teed off with Justin Thomas and Fred Couples shortly before 3 p.m. when thousands of fans were making their way toward the exit. Thousands more crowded around the tee, lined the first fairway and followed him down the par-5 second hole. Some of them rushed over to the third hole to stake out a spot. Most of them surrounded the second green, and they were responsible for all the noise when Woods chipped in from behind the green.

About the only thing missing was a beam of light from the heavens.

Any talk about this being one of the most anticipated Masters in years starts with one player. Woods is at Augusta National for the first time since 2015, at least with his golf clubs, and he showed during the Florida swing of the PGA Tour that he is more fifth green jacket.

"When Tiger walked onto the range today, you can tell there's an anticipation and an excitement from the crowd to watch him compete again," Justin Rose said.

Woods was at Augusta National last year only for the Champions Dinner, and it wasn't much fun. If the pain in his lower back wasn't enough, it was looking out at the course he loves and knowing that he wouldn't be playing the major he calls a "players' heaven" for the second straight year, and maybe never.

Fusion surgery—his fourth on his lower back in four yearsfollowed a few weeks later.

And now it looks as though he never left.

Woods still hasn't won a tournament in the five PGA Tour events he has played this year, but he has shot par or better in his last 10 rounds. He was runner-up by one shot at the Valspar Championship. He was one shot out of the lead at the Arnold Palmer Invitational until indecision sent his tee shot on the 16th hole out of bounds.

He hasn't won the Masters since 2005, so long ago that only 18 players from then are in the field this year, and 15 of them are Masters champions.

Two teams preparing trade offers for Gronkowski 's buy-in, while with the Oakland Raiders. year contract.



teams are eyeing England Patriots tight end

Rob Gronkowski.

A couple teams were preparing trade offers for Gronkowski during owners meetings in Orlando, according to reports.

The news comes after ESPN reported Gronkowski will likely return to the Patriots in 2018 despite mulling retirement. However, he and Bill Belichick are dealing with lingering frustrations. Belichick is concerned about

LAND—Two the latter is growing weary of the high-strung environment Belichick creates at One Pa-

> Gronkowski finished the 2017 season with 69 catches for 1084 yards and nine touchdowns. He helped the Patriots make a Super Bowl berth, where Gronkowski logged nine catches for 116 yards and two touchdowns in the Patriots' losing effort against the Philadelphia Eagles.

> In California, Free agent wide receiver and special teams player Dwayne Harris has signed

The team announced the deal Monday.

Harris played only five games for the New York Giants last season before going on the reserve/injured list with a hurt foot. He returned nine kickoffs for 188 yards.

The 30-year-old Harris spent his first four seasons with the Cowboys, who selected him in the sixth round of the 2011 draft, then played the past three seasons with New York.

In Arizona, Cardinals have signed free agent wide receiver Brice Butler to a two-

Monday's move addresses one of the team's biggest needs, depth at the receiver position, following the departure of John Brown and Jaron Brown to free agency.

Butler, entering his sixth NFL season, played the last three seasons with the Dallas Cowboys and totaled 43 catches for 794 yards and six touchdowns. He was selected by Oakland in the seventh round out of San Diego State in the 2013 draft and played his first two seasons with the Raiders.

Villanova defeats Michigan behind DiVincenzo

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—When he wasn't dribbling behind his back, winking to the TV announcers, stuffing shots or dishing out assists, Villanova guard Donte DiVincenzo was making it rain.

First, 3-pointers. Later on, confetti.

The redhead kid with the nickname Big Ragu came off the bench to score 31 points Monday and lift 'Nova to another blowout tournament victory—this time 79-62 over Michigan for its second title in three seasons.

The sophomore guard had 12 points and an assist during a first-half run to help the Wildcats (36-4) pull ahead, then scored nine straight for Villanova midway through the second to snuff out the Wolverines. He capped the second shooting skein with a 3-pointer from a step behind the arc. He punctuated it with a knowing wink over to the sideline, where TV announcers Jim Nantz and Bill Raftery were sitting.

Yep, he knew he could do it. And his teammates were more than willing to let him steal the show.

"If someone's hot, feed 'em," said Jalen Brunson, the national Player of the Year, who finished with nine points and was perfectly fine with playing a supporting role on this night.

Villanova won all six games by double digits over this tournament run, joining Michigan State (2000), Duke (2001) and North Carolina (2009) in that rare air.

The last team to win its two Final Four games by 16 or more: UCLA in 1968. During the dynasty.

One key question: Does Jay Wright's team belong on the list of the best of all-time?

Maybe so, considering the way Villanova dismantled everyone in front of it in a tournament that was dripping with upsets, underdogs and at least the appearance of parity.

Maybe so, considering the Wildcats won in seemingly every way imaginable. This

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP)—Former NBA stars Jason Kidd, Steve Nash, Ray Allen and Grant Hill headline the 2018 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame class announced Saturday.

Other inductees include longtime college basketball coach Lefty Driesell, women's basketball standouts Katie Smith and Tina Thompson, and four-time NBA All-Star Maurice Cheeks.

Kidd, a 10-time NBA All-Star and six-time All-NBA selection, is considered one of the best passers in NBA history. He finished his career



Michigan can't counter Villanova in rough title game defeat

SAN ANTONIO (AP)— Michigan's starters trudged to the bench in weary succession, watching with towel-covered heads in their hands while the waning minutes of the NCAA Tournament championship game dropped away.

After finding answers to every problem during their 14-game winning streak, the Wolverines' final test of the season had been just too tough.

They tried just about everything to stop Donte DiVincenzo, and everything failed as he delivered 31 points— the highest scoring performance all season by a Michigan opponent— in Villanova's 79-62 win. The Wolverines also failed to match the Wildcats' offense with more offense, and that proved to be just as costly.

Afterward, coach John Beilein seemed relatively upbeat after falling one game

victory came two nights after they set a Final Four record with 18 3-pointers (they had 10 in this one), and one week after they relied more on defense in a win over Texas Tech short of his first championship for the second time in six years.

"Even if we had played our best, it would have been very difficult to win that game with what DiVincenzo did," Beilein said. "It was an incredible performance. Sometimes those individual performances just beat you, and you just say, 'OK. We played you the best we could, and tonight, you were better than us."

For the second time, Michigan couldn't find a defensive answer for a reserve on college basketball's biggest stage. Luke Hancock scored 22 points for Louisville during its victory over the Wolverines in the 2013 title game.

DiVincenzo was even better, and just as vexing.

"That's his talent," guard Charles Matthews said. "We were guarding him, and he was making those shots. It's

in the Elite Eight.

"We don't really look at it that way," Wright said. "We don't look at it as, did we just dominate that team? No. We played well." as simple as that."

The Wolverines couldn't slow him down, and they couldn't catch up.

Matthews Michigan's sec.

Matthews, Michigan's second-leading scorer, managed only six points on 3-for-9 shooting and committed five turnovers. The Wolverines got no points in 22 minutes from Duncan Robinson, their fourth-leading scorer.

Zavier Simpson needed a few late buckets to finish with 10 total points in the two Final Four games, and the Wolverines' top playmaker had just two assists against Villanova. Michigan had only six total assists on 24 field goals in the title game.

Michigan went a paltry 3 for 23 on 3-pointers, with only Wagner and Abdur-Rahkman finding the net. The Wolverines missed 59 of their 73 3-point attempts over the fi-

And really, that debate's for later.

DiVincenzo squashed any questions about this game with a 10-for-15 shooting night—5-for-7 from 3—that

nal three games of the NCAA Tournament, and this time they couldn't make up for it.

Even worse, the Wolverines' entire bench went a combined 3 for 12 while contributing only seven points —or 24 fewer than DiVincenzo, the Wildcats' extraordinary sixth man.

"Anytime (an opponent) gets into a rhythm like that, where you can pull up from anywhere and just knock them down, it's tough to stop," said Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rakhman, who led the Wolverines with 23 points. "You're always on your heels defensively because you never know what he's going to do—either shoot, pull up and shoot the 3, or drive to the basket."

Wagner finished with 16 points, but appeared to be headed to much more before the Wildcats' defensive adjustments.

was, frankly, better than that. He was a no-doubt winner of the Final Four's most outstanding player award.

With Michigan refusing to go away early in the second

Villanova players celebrate with the trophy after beating Michigan, 79-62, in the championship game of the Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament, Monday, April 2, 2018, in San Antonio.



half, he opened his game-sealing run with an around-the-back dribble to get to the hoop and get fouled. On the other end, he delivered a two-handed rejection of Michigan's Charles Matthew—his second block of the game, to go with five rebounds and three assists—when Matthews tried to bring it into the paint.

The 3-pointer that sealed it came from a big step behind the arc and gave Villanova a 62-44 lead with 7:58 left.

"Honestly, I didn't look at the score at all," DiVincenzo said. "I didn't know how many points I had, I didn't know any of that. I was just trying to make the right play. And Omari (Spellman) was setting unbelievable screens for me getting me open. And I was just feeling it."

About the only drama at the end was whether DiVincenzo could unwrap himself from his teammates' mob hug to toss the ball underhanded toward the scoreboard after the buzzer. He succeeded there, too.

"Sometimes I think about whether I'm a good defender, because in practice, he makes me look bad," said junior Mikal Bridges, who likely made this his final audition for the NBA with a 19-point night on 7-for-12 shooting.

What a couple of months it's been for Philly. First the Eagles. Now this. The Super Bowl, though, was a classic. This one was only beautiful to one team.

Michigan (33-8) came out playing tough-nosed defense it relied on over a 14-game winning streak that got the Wolverines to their second final in six years.

4 former NBA stars headline Hall of Fame class

second all-time in assists and steals and third all-time in triple-doubles. The 6-foot-4 point guard played for five different franchises and won a title with the Dallas Mavericks in 2011. He led the league in assists five times in his 19-year career and won two gold medals with the United States.

"It's just very humbling, surreal, to have this opportunity to play a game that you love and to be honored with this class," Kidd said. "I would like to thank the Hall of Fame for doing this. And again,

this being a team sport, it's about my teammates and coaches, so hopefully I'm representing them well here today."

Nash, a native of South Africa who grew up in Canada, is third among the NBA's all-time assist leaders. He won the MVP award back-to-back years in 2005 and 2006, one of just 12 players to win multiple MVP awards. He made eight All-Star Games and was a sev-

en-time All-NBA selec-

tion, including a firstteam selection three times, while leading the league in assists on five occasions.

"This is an incredible feeling, obviously," Nash said. "To cap a career in this way. This is an individual recognition, but truly what makes this special is to share in my journey with so many people that go in with me. But most importantly, to share this recognition with

this class and all the Hall of Famers that come before us is incredibly special and is what makes this honor such a prideful thing for me and my family."

Nash has been serving as a player development consultant for the Golden State Warriors and as general manager of the Canadian national team.

Allen is one of the greatest shooters in NBA history. He is the league's all-time leader in career 3-point field goals made, in both the regular season and postseason. Allen won two NBA championships with the Boston Celtics and Miami Heat, and made 10 All-Star Games. He was also a two-time All-NBA selection and won a gold medal in 2000. During his time at UConn, Allen won National Player of the Year honors in 1996.

"It's a long journey" Allen said. "I think about everybody who has had a hand in my growth. Not only as an athlete, but as a person. I think about being a young kid when I first started this game."

TanHoldings players lead way in Golden Boot race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Three TanHoldings Football Club players are ahead in the Golden Boot race in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

In the co-ed U13 division, Anthony Bergancia earned 14 goals in six games to lead a tight battle for the Golden Boot award. He scored in the first three matches of TanHoldings-1 (1, 3, and 2) and had back-to-back four-goal output in Games 5 and 6 to take the slim lead.

Just right behind Bergancia is teammate Mark Joseph Roque, who posted 13 goals, while MP United 1's Andrew Chung and another TanHoldings-1 player, Angelo Pulido, are still very much in contention with 12 and 10 goals, respectively. Ariel Narvaez, also from the unbeaten TanHoldings-1 (6-0-0), completed the Top 5 with his nine goals.

playing Four Mariana Islands weekends are left Football Association in the co-ed U13 division before

the Golden Boot winner is decided.

In the boys U15 division,

TanHoldings' Taka Borja is way ahead of his competitors after gaining 20 goals in six matches. The TanHoldings strike leads Kanoa's Ian Maniago (13) and MP United's Rintaro Miyawaki (11). Four players—Matansa's Lolobeyong Benito and Razeff Altamirano, Paire's Kaden Church, and Kanoa's Markus Toves-are tied for fourth with eight goals each, while MP United's Jason Quimzon is ranked fifth with his six goals. Players have three games left to get more goals and boost their chances for the



TanHoldings' Anthony Bergancia, right, leads the Golden Boot race in the co-ed U13 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

Mariners sink Falcons for victory No. 4

By JON PEREZ

Wanket noa and Devon Flores had an RBI each in the fourth inning, while Nate Camacho pitched three shutout innings, as the Mariners beat the Falcons, 11-6, last Monday night in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Kainoa and Flores made their RBIs in the Mariners' six-run fourth inning, as the Pat Tenorio-coached squad improved to a 4-3 record and handed last year's finalists their second loss in seven games.

The Falcons were up at 5-1 after three complete, but failed to stop the Mariners' comeback bid in the fourth to lose the match.

Mark Flores led off for the



The Mariners' Nate Camacho, left, and the Falcons' Jan Norita enjoy a brief talk at third base while waiting for play to resume during their game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Mariners in the fourth, getting on base on an error by Falcons second baseman Jay Kalen. K.J. Deleon Guerero then singled after Manny Villagomez struck out, while Nate Smith walked to load up the bases. Mark Flores eventually scored on Kainoa's RBI single, while Deleon

Guerrero reached home on a J.J. Lifoifoi wild pitch, and Smith added one more run on a Devon Flores sacrifice fly.

Kainoa also had a run on a Pat Tenorio single, while Ton Tenorio, who walked, crossed home plate on another Falcons miscue. Pat Tenorio recorded run No. 6 for the

Mariners on a passed ball.

Shane Yamada went 3-for-4 with an RBI triple at the top of the first and made a run in the ninth to help the Mariners take the come-from-behind win. Villagomez, on the other hand, scored twice and had an RBI after going 3-for-5. Ton Tenorio, who walked twice, batted 2-for-4 with two runs.

Camacho tossed a one-hit game in closing out for the Mariners, as he struck out five and walked two batters. Jonah Flores pitched six innings in start, giving up four earned runs on 10 hits with four strikeouts and five walks.

The Falcons' bullpen composed of Lifoifoi, Frankie Lieto, and Peter Lieto-allowed nine eared runs on 13 hits, while fanning six and walking two.

Kalen went 3-for-5 for the Falcons with a double, a run, and two RBIs.

Gross said they plan to make the Disability Sports Festival an annual event every March,

which coincides with the Dis-

abilities Awareness Month.

The precision sport of boc-

"All of the participants will

Golden Boot award.

In the girls U16 division, Kanoa's Paulynn Joyce also enjoys a good lead against MP United's Stella McCallion, as the former registered 18 goals in four games over the latter's 11. Others who made it to the Top 5 are Southern United's Keisha Deleon Guerrero (8), Kanoa's Sharmaine Francisco (8), TanHoldings' Judy Andebor (6), and Shirley's Jerlyn Castillo (4). Players chasing Joyce have four games to earn more goals and dislodge the Kanoa striker from the top spot.

In the boys U18 division,

TanHoldings' Mark Esalan has the lead with three playing weeks to go. He collected nine goals in four games to pace perennial Golden Boot winner and MP United main man Sunjoon Tenorio (6), Kanoa's Andruw Omelau (4) and Merrick Toves (4), Matansa's Joshua De Leon (3), and MP United's Dai Podziewski (3) and Miyawaki (3).

Meanwhile, action in the youth league will resume this Saturday after Northern Mariana Islands Football Association called off the games last weekend in observance of Easter Sunday.

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in the penultimate frame for their 61-51 lead.

The 670 Sonics then protected the driver's seat in the fourth canto despite the repeated comeback bids of the 670 Akkeri. Cadiang stepped up in the final period, firing 10 of his total production in the payoff quarter. Duenas and Sean Rabasto added 6 each to keep the 670 Sonics' safe distance and spoil the 670 Akkeri's debut.

Fred Litulumar had 14 markers on a losing effort for the 670 Akkeri.

It took a while for the 670 Sonics and 670 Akkeri to play their first match in the league that kicked off last March 19, as both teams and their coaches had to prepare for off-island tournaments.

Meanwhile, the Lady Ol'Aces made it two wins in a row after topping the winless Docomo Rollers, 67-49, in the curtain-raiser last Monday.

Halle Kenty, Taz Deleon Guerrero and Lia Rangamar teamed up in giving the Lady Ol'Aces a double-digit winning margin.

Kenty had a game-high 19 points, Deleon Guerrero scored 13, and Rangamar tallied 11, as the trio alternately led the Lady Ol'Aces' offense to counter the strong debut game of Dani Nowicki for the Docomo Rollers. The Saipan Community School teacher recorded 19 points in her first game in the league.

Women's Division

Lady Ol'Aces 67 — Kenty 19, Deleon Guerrero 13, L. Rangamar 11, J. Omar 6, C. Camacho 6, K. Rangamar 4, B. Camacho 2, K. Omar 2.

Docomo Rollers 49 — Nowicki 19, Pena 12, Garon 10, Lumabi 5, Francisco 3.

Men's Division

670 Sonics 93 — M. Duenas 18, Cadiang 14, Ngeskebei 13, De Guzman 11, Rabasto 8, Rafols 6, Javier 5, Aranda 5, Fidelino 2, E. Duenas 2.

670 Akkeri 80 — Litulumar 14, P. Factor 12, Lisua 12, Pangelinan 12, Kwon 11, A. Factor 6, Rios 4, Teregeyo 4, Ogumoro 2, Tenorio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-14, 39-31, 61-51, 93-80.

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disabilities.

"The money is for the CNMI Disable Sports Fest. We hope that everybody will compete in the project and have fun. This is in line with getting more awareness for disabled people. Let's make this an annual thing," said Cabrera.

"This is our promise—on behalf of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, the Lady Diann Foundation. and Department of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson—of providing the committee with funds for the event."

Cabrera lauded the committee for trying their best in putting up the sports fest. "They

are making sure this will be well planned for people with disabilities. Our contribution is for a good cause," Cabrera said.

"This is the governor and the administration's share. The committee is still looking for other sources of funding to make sure that the inaugural sports fest would be successful."

The project is in collaboration with the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. led by executive director James Rayphand, Lady Diann Foundation, and Public School System athletics program director Nick Gross under the Student Support Services.

"The sports fest is the result of numerous agencies collaborating to offer sport-

ing, recreational, and leisure opportunities to individuals with disabilities. Majority of our audience is in school age, but there will be some adult members from the three island communities that will be participating as well," Gross told Saipan Tribune.

"We hoped to engage the community and other stakeholders in identifying funding to ensure that this becomes an annual event," Gross added.

Saipan will be hosting the inaugural event set from July 5 to 8 with majority of the activities to be held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. A welcome ceremony for all the participants is also scheduled on July 5 with the venue still to be determined.

cia, adaptive softball, paravolley (sitting volleyball), athletics, and outrigger canoe are the events lined up for the

also get the opportunity to enjoy swimming as a form of leisure activity. A banquet is also being planned to honor our guests from Tinian and Rota as well as all our onisland participants on July 7," said Gross.

The venue for the closing banquet is yet to be determined.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018 **27**

2018 SSC International Meet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Saipan Swim Club's Jinju Thompson races in the 100m butterfly event in the 2018 SSC International Meet held last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.





Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru gasps for air during the



Saipan Swim Club's Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero nears completion of the 50m butterfly event.



Three swimmers are in a close race in the 100m breaststroke event.



Two swimmers are in a tight race in the 100m butterfly event.



Tsunami Saipan's Nelson Batallones plunges into the pool during the 200m medley relay race.





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Villanova defeats Michigan behind DiVincenzo

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28 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Little Legals, Braves pound foes



he Little Legals and the Natibu Sports Association Braves routed their respective opponents in last Saturday's games in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The clinched their fifth straight win after a 13-1 crushing of the Comets to remain in second place behind the idle Falcons (6-0), while the Braves beat the Twins in similar scores.

Gunner Sablan pitched a no-hitter in leading the Little Legals to a victory in the shortened game and he also struck out 12 and walked only two. The Comets' lone run was unearned.

> double and a triple to go with his three runs and four RBIs. His two-RBI double in the fifth gave the Little Legals

a commanding 12-1 lead. The pitcher went on to end the game when he consecutively retired Greg Tobit, Boss Blas, and Tristan

Cardi Borja also went 3-for-3 with a double, a triple, three runs, and two RBIs for the streaking Little Legals, while Gregory Pangelinan scored twice and had an RBI double after going 2-for-3.

Reed Camacho batted only 1-for-2, but had an RBI triple and reached home in the third inning, while Benji Palacios went 2-for-4 with one run to complete the Little Legals' demolition of the Comets.

Sam Aldan, who got on base on an error by Little Legals third baseman Jon Diaz and stole second, scored the Comets' lone run on a throwing error by the latter at the top of the first inning.

Braves 13, Twins 1

The Braves used a 10-run first inning in completing the onesided match against the Twins.

Justin Camacho drove in four runs and scored twice on a 2-for-2 batting. He also pitched a complete game, limiting the Twins to two hits, striking out six, and walking four batters.

Jylon Sablan went 2-for-2 with one run and two RBIs for the Braves, while Willy Joe Lieto, 1-for-3, had an RBI double and scored one run.

Daryl Tomokane, who walked, made the lone run for the Twins on a Braves error in the second inning.

670 Sonics win debut, top 670 Akkeri

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The 670 Sonics got off to a good start after beating 670 Akkeri, 93-80, in their debut in the 2018 MIBF Islandwide Basketball League last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 670 Sonics banked on old reliables to win their first game of the season. Matt Due-

nas top-scored for the 670 Sonics with Melvin Cadiang chipped in 14. J.R. Ngeskebei and Jay-

and 11, respectively.

Ngeskebei made his presence felt early in the match, dropping 7 of his total output in the opening canto to lift

his 18 points, while mar De Guzman also finished in twin digits after recording 13

> The 670 Akkeri still could not buy baskets in streak in the second period, while De Guzman picked up where Ngeskebei left off, recording 9 points to increase the 670 Sonics' advantage at the break, 39-31.

the 670 Sonics to a

The 670 Akkeri fell

behind, as it struggled

offensively in the first

few minutes of the

opening quarter. 670 Akkeri's

first 5 points all came from the

foul line before it made four

field goals.

19-14 lead.

The 670 Sonics went on to earn a double-digit spread in the third period and this time it was Duenas who delivered the goods for the eventual winners, as he logged 9 points

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The 670 Sonics' Melvin Cadiang, left, and Sean Rabasto, right, hound the 670 Akkeri's Ben Lisua during their game in the MIBF island-wide caging last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

1st sports fest for people with disabilities set

By JON PEREZ

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The 2018 Disabled Sports Festival received a huge shot in the arm after the Office of Grants Management donated \$70,000 to help fund the inaugural event that will be hosted by Saipan this July.

OGM administrator Epi Cabrera said the donation is part of their office's support in the event that aims to provide leisure activities to people in the CNMI with

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From left, First Lady Diann Torres, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, and Office of Grants Management administrator Epi Cabrera turn over the check donation to Public School System athletics program director Nick Gross and Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. executive director James Rayphand for the 2018 Disabled Sports Festival yesterday at the Governor's Office conference room on Capital Hill.